

THE MONTHLY EPITOME,

For NOVEMBER 1800.

LXXX. *The British Cabinet*; containing Portraits of illustrious Personages, engraved from original Pictures: with biographical Memoirs. By JOHN ADOLPHUS, F. S. A. Vol. II. Imperial 4to. pp. 48. 2l. 2s. E. Harding, Pall Mall. (See an Account of Vol. I. M. Epitome, Vol. III. p. 259.)

LIST OF PORTRAITS,

Engraved by Harding, &c.

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48. William Shippen (1720), at ditto.
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50. Earl of Abercorn (1734), at Marquis of Abercorn's.

EXTRACTS.

SIR EDWARD SEYMOUR.

"SIR Edward Seymour, the fifth of that name in lineal succession, was born in 1633.

"In the reigns of Charles II. James II. William and Mary, he was very conspicuous in all political transactions, and particularly in the House of Commons. He constantly served in Parliament for the city of Exeter, except once for Hindon, and once for Totness.

"In 1667 he distinguished himself

in the impeachment of the Lord Chancellor Hyde, Earl of Clarendon. In the House of Commons he made a long and severe speech against him, recapitulating all the supposed crimes and errors of his administration, and the propriety of arraigning him for high treason; and he attended a few days after at the bar of the House of Lords with the accusation of the Lower House, and their request that the Lord Chancellor might be sequestered from that House, and his person sequestered.

"In the same year Seymour obtained a grant for life of the office of Clerk of the Hanaper in the Court of Chancery.

"On the resignation of Sir Job Charlton, 15th February 1672-3, he was unanimously chosen speaker of the House of Commons, and on the 9th of April following, made treasurer of the navy.

"On the 6th of March 1673, he was again chosen speaker, but the king having occasion for his services, in a manner which he considered incompatible with that appointment, refused to confirm the election. The Commons made three representations in Seymour's favour, but at length having been prorogued, and fearing dissolution, they elected Sergeant Gregory.

"Seymour gave so much offence to the House by his attachment to the constitution, and his opposition to their extravagant views, that on the 20th of November 1680 they voted his impeachment, and a motion was made for addressing the king to dismiss him from his presence and councils for ever; but the motion was abandoned, and no articles of impeachment exhibited: he opposed the bill of exclusion, and was a great promoter of the Habeas Corpus act.

"After the accession of James II. Seymour was a strenuous opposer of the Duke of Monmouth and his rebellious adherents in 1685. Afterwards considering the church of England in danger from the united efforts of the Catholics and Presbyterians, he joined in inviting the Prince of Orange, though he expected that he would only interpose as a generous mediator, and not attempt to seize the throne or change the succession.

"When William landed in 1688, such was the terror of the people, and their tardiness in joining him, that he

would probably have been compelled to return, but Seymour waited on him at Exeter, and proposed forming an association to adhere to him till the religion, laws, and liberties of the kingdom were secured by a free parliament. This candid declaration soon procured the Prince of Orange a great number of adherents.

"Seymour disliking the subsequent proceedings, particularly the dethroning of King James, and disinheriting of his son, opposed those measures, and resisted the bill for forming the convention into a parliament. His efforts being overruled, he submitted and took the oaths of government.

"In December 1688 Seymour's father died, and he succeeded to his title and estate.

"In March 1691-2 he was made a privy counsellor, and commissioner of the treasury, but in little more than two years he again joined the opposition, and in a debate on the king's intended partition of Spain, treated the project as a highway robbery.

"On the accession of Queen Anne, Sir Edward was, in April 1702, appointed comptroller of the household, and again took his seat at the council board, but he was deprived of his place in 1703-4.

"He was again supporter of the bill to prevent occasional conformity, and moved for one to resume all King William's grants.

"After he was deprived of his place he continued his parliamentary exertions till the period of his death, which happened the 17th of February 1707-8 at Maiden Bradley, where he was interred, and a beautiful monument erected to his memory.

"Sir Edward Seymour was endowed with great abilities and eloquence, and distinguished by a considerable share of haughtiness, which perhaps raised him many enemies. He gave a specimen of his pride when he went to meet the Prince of Orange. William said to him, 'I think, Sir Edward, you are of the Duke of Somerset's family.' Seymour answered, 'No, he is of mine'."

WILLIAM SHIPPEN.

"THE following account of William Shippen is taken entirely from 'Memoirs of the Life and Administration of Sir Robert Walpole, by the
'Rev.

'Rev. Mr. Coxe.' The narrative of that author is derived from such excellent sources, and so ably detailed, that no improvement can be expected, and an abridgment would afford grounds of reasonable complaint and regret.

"If uniformity of principles, and consistency of conduct, be admitted as a merit, William Shippen certainly deserves that eulogium as much or more than any member of the House of Commons. Yet in considering the persons who formed the minority, we ought to be on our guard, lest we mistake the heat of party for true patriotism; and we should also be wary in trusting to expressions which are become almost cant words, and have been handed from one writer to another, until they have been adopted as unquestionable truths. Thus he is called by various writers, '*the English Cato*,' '*Inflexible Patriot*;' and Pope has said of him,

'I love to pour out all myself as plain,
'As *honest Shippen*, or downright
Montaigne.'

"But though we may allow him to be honest and incorruptible, yet the appellation of true patriot can by no means be justly conferred on him; unless we should style that man a patriot, who was notoriously disaffected to the Potestant succession, and publicly known to be in the interests of the Pretender; who did not affect even to conceal his sentiments; who in the heterogeneous meetings of the opposition, frequently disgusted the old Whigs with declarations on the necessity of restoring the Stuarts*; and who, in company with his intimate friends, was often heard to declare, that he waited for orders from Rome, before he would give his vote in the House of Commons.

"The family of Shippen was settled in Cheshire. His father, who was rector of Stockport, had four sons, one of whom was president of Brazenose College, Oxford; a man of distinguished abilities, and of the same principles with his brother: and one daughter, who married Mr. Leyborne, a gentleman of respectable family in Yorkshire.

"William Shippen was born about the year 1672, and received his educa-

tion at Stockport school, which was conducted with great credit by a master whose name was Dale.

"He first came into Parliament in 1707, for Bramber in Sussex, in the place of John Afgill, who was expelled for blasphemy, by the interest of Lord Plymouth, whose son Dixy Windsor was his brother-in-law. He again represented that borough in 1710. In 1713 he was chosen for Saltash in Cornwall, probably by government interest; but waved his seat in 1714, on being elected for Newton in Lancashire, through the interest of Mr. Legh of Lime Park in Cheshire; whose aunt, Lady Clarke, was married to his brother Dr. Shippen; which place he continued to represent until his death. His paternal estate was very small, not exceeding 400*l.* a year, but he obtained a fortune of not less than 70,000*l.* by his wife, who was daughter and co-heiress of Sir R. Stote, knight, of the county of Northumberland, by whom he left no children. His way of living was in all respects simple and economical. Before his marriage he never exceeded his income, and even afterwards his expenses were not proportionable to the largeness of his estate.

"For a short period he had apartments in Holland House, from whence he dates several of his letters to Bishop Atterbury, with whom he maintained a constant correspondence during his exile. And William Morrice mentions him in one of his letters, as a person who continued fixed to his principles, or, as he expresses himself, *as honest as ever*. He seems to have had no country residence, except a hired house on Richmond Hill, but made excursions in the summer to his wife's relations in Northumberland. His usual place of abode was London, in the latter period of his life in Norfolk Street, and his house was the rendezvous of persons of rank, learning, and abilities; his manner was pleasing and dignified, and his conversation was replete with vivacity and wit.

"Shippen and Sir Robert Walpole had always a personal regard for each other. He was frequently heard to say, '*Robin and I are two honest men*.' He is for King George, and I am for King James. But those men with

* "From the Bishop of Salisbury."

'long cravats (meaning Sandys, Sir John Rushout, Gybbon, and others), only desire places, either under King George or King James.'

"By the accounts of those * who had heard him in the House of Commons, his manner was highly energetic and spirited as to sentiment and expression; but he generally spoke in a low tone of voice, with too great rapidity, and held his glove before his mouth. His speeches usually contained some pointed period, which peculiarly applied to the subject in debate, and which he uttered with great animation.

"Shippen published several pamphlets, the titles of which I cannot ascertain: he may be supposed to have obtained some reputation as a poet, by the mention which Sheffield, Duke of Buckingham, makes of him in his poem, 'The Election of a Poet Laureat.'

'To Shippen Apollo was cold with respect,

'But said in a greater assembly he thin'd,

'As places were things he had ever declin'd.'

"Shippen wrote two political poems: *Faction Displayed, and Moderation Displayed*. In the first he draws the characters of the great Whig lords, under the names of the principal Romans who were engaged in Catiline's conspiracy. This satire is severe and caustic; but the lines are, in general, rough and inharmonious. The concluding passage, which refers to the death of the Duke of Gloucester, is not without merit.

'So by the course of the revolving spheres,

'Whene'er a new-discover'd star appears,

'Astronomers, with pleasure and amaze,

'Upon the infant luminary gaze.

'They find their heavens enlarg'd, and wait from thence

'Some blest, some more than common influence;

'But suddenly, alas! the fleeting light,

'Retiring, leaves their hopes involv'd in endless night.'

"His wife was extremely penurious, and, from a peculiarity of temper, un-

willing to mix in society. She was much courted by Queen Caroline, but having imbibed from her husband a great independency of principle, ostentatiously affected to decline all intercourse with the court.

"The fortune which he received with his wife, and the money which he had saved, came to her on his death, in consequence of a compact, that the survivor should inherit the whole. As neither he nor any of his brothers left any sons, his paternal estate passed to his nephew, Dr. Leyborne, principal of Alban Hall, Oxford; and Mr. Leyborne, a merchant of the factory at Lisbon. Shippen's widow lived to a great age: her infirmities being such as to prevent her making a will, her ample fortune devolved on her sister, Mrs. Dixy Windfor.

"Shippen's niece, Miss Leyborne, was married to the Rev. Mr. Taylor. She was mother to Mrs. Willes, widow of the late learned and much-respected judge, to whom I am principally indebted for these anecdotes. A collateral branch of the family of Shippen is settled in Philadelphia: one of them married Laurens, who was president of the Congress; and another, the American General Arnold."

LXXXI. *A Tour through Part of North Wales, in the Year 1798, and at other Times; principally undertaken with a View to botanical Researches in that Alpine Country: interspersed with Observations on the Scenery, Agriculture, Manufactures, Customs, History, and Antiquities. By the Rev. J. EVANS, B.A. late of Jesus College, Oxon. 8vo. pp. 416.—8s. White.*

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* "From the late Earl of Orford."

—IV,

—IV. Dolgellen—Merioneth—Cader Idris—The Otter.—V. Barmouth—A Scene of Penury and Distress.—VI. Harlech—Pestilential Vapours—John Richards the Guide—Druidical Remains—Tanybwch—Plants.—VII. Pont Aber Glas Lyn—Bedd-Kelert—Monasteries—Caernarvon—The Cattle.—VIII. Dolbadern Castle—Llanberis—Foulke Jones, the strong Man—Copper Mines—Strata and Plants of Snowden—Botanical Theories—Vortigern—Myrdin Emrys, or Merlin.—IX. Bangor—Port Penhryn—Drinking Horn—Archbishop Williams.—X. Aber-Pennan Mawr—Conway—The Castle—Llandudno—Peregrine Falcon—Dangerous Employ of Egg-taking—The Puffin.—XI. Llanrwst—The Bridge—Pont Llyn Dyffros—Corwen—A Female Tonfor—Owen Glyndwr.—XII. Vale of Llangollen—Dinas-Bran—Valle Crucis Abbey—Offa's Dyke—Chirk Castle—Lords Marchers.—XIII. Peculiarities of the People of North Wales—Their Hospitality—Pride of Ancestry—Irritable Dispositions—Litigious Spirit—Singular Customs in Courtship, Marriage, and at Funerals.—XIV. State of Agriculture.—XV. The Welch Language—The Bards—Religion.

EXTRACTS.

MALLWYD—ANCIENT CUSTOM OF COMMUTING CRIMES.

“THIS district was famous, longer than any part of Britain, for retaining the barbarous custom, prevalent during the dark ages through all the northern nations of Europe, of commuting crimes, however flagitious, by a fine; called by the Saxons were-geld, and by the Welch *gwenb*. Nor was the insult upon humanity, of putting the life of man in competition with property, removed, till the 27th of King Henry the VIII. In this country the restitution was generally made in cattle. The fine for a Welchman's life, unless he was taxed as a vassal of the crown, was very low; seventy thrymses (about ten pounds sterling); the loss of a nose, or other principal member, six oxen and one hundred and twenty pence;

of a finger, one cow and twenty pence; and other injuries in proportion. (*Vide Leges Wal.* 278.)

“The commutation called *Gobr Merch* demonstrates, that the violation of chastity was considered as a very venial crime; and the recompense to a virgin that had been seduced, was barbarously singular.

“On complaint being made, that a damsel's lover had deserted her, the court adjudged her the opportunity of obtaining the *gobr merch*. A young three-year-old bull was to have his tail shaved and well greased; and this was to be introduced through a wicker door: if the injured female had sufficient strength to retain the bull by the tail, while two men were goading it, the beast was adjudged to her; if not, she was dismissed without further satisfaction!!!” P. 78.

HARLECH—PESTILENTIAL VAPOURS.

“WE inquired into a very extraordinary phenomenon related by Camden, said to have happened here, A. D. 1624. It is still strong in the traditional recollection of the people. It was a mephitic vapour that rose from the sea, commencing from the shore of Morfa Vychan, near Criceith. It extended itself in every direction for several miles, carrying devastation and dismay wherever it came. It set fire to numerous hay-ricks, appeared like a blue lambent flame, but did not injure persons exposed to it. It so infected the herbage in many places, that numbers of the cattle died, and the mischief attendant upon it constantly happened in the night: it continued its depredations for eight months. It was observed in stormy, as well as calm nights; in all weathers; and any great noise, as the sounding of horns, or the firing of guns, would disperse and extinguish the flame. (*Vid. Philosoph. Transactions.*)

“It has been seriously thought, that eclipses of the sun in Aries have been fatal to this neighbourhood (for in the years 1542 and 1567 it suffered exceedingly by fire, and, after the latter eclipse, the fire spread so far, that two hundred houses of the suburbs of Caernarvon were also consumed). To those who believe that the motions and conjunctions of the planets are intimately connected with human affairs, and

and the efficient causes of human events, this information must prove a valuable *moreau*. But the philosopher will look for the cause of such a wonderful phenomenon as the vapour already mentioned, in some source more upon a level with common understandings.

"It was conjectured, at the time, that it might be occasioned by a quantity of locusts, drowned in the sea, and cast on the shore; and instances of their appearance and death, causing pestilential vapours in many places, have been adduced, particularly on the coast of France 1374, attended with a dreadful mortality of men and cattle*.

"Without calling in question this account, or doubting the property of creatures, while living, mentioned by Pliny, l. xi. c. 29, '*Multa contactu adurunt*;' from the infrequency of these visitants it is more probable, that it proceeded from large shoals of herrings, driven by whales on the strand, and there permitted to putrefy. An event of this kind often puts on a serious aspect on the coasts of the Isle of Man and Scotland, and is not unfrequently followed by deleterious effects.

"Animal bodies, in a state of decomposition, emit large quantities of hydrogenous gas; this is pernicious to animal life, and mixed with a small quantity of oxygen, becomes highly inflammable: and when it meets with electric matter, with which the atmosphere abounds, will instantly explode. A continuance of the cause would for the time produce a continuance of the effect. The period of the duration was probably much shorter than stated by the people. It is in the nature of fear, for conternation to remain long after the objects of it are removed." P. 125.

* "Mouffet gives an account of a plague in Lombardy, about the year 591, which arose from the fall of a cloud of locusts, that corrupted the air to such a degree, that upwards of 80,000 men and cattle died; and Otho Frisingensis mentions a pestilence in France, A. D. 1374, occasioned by locusts drowned in the channel, and cast upon the coasts. *Vid. Theatre des Insectes*.

"I have known great quantities of common cock-chafers thrown upon the coast of Somersetshire, near Burnham, emitting such putrid effluvia, as to render it very disagreeable to walk upon the beach for several days together."

† "It is particularly worthy of note in this diminutive plant, that to its beautiful head of white blossoms succeed pods on short hairy peduncles, twisted in a spiral direction, and contrary to the diurnal motion of the sun."

‡ "Though Linnæus himself may be said to have countenanced the doctrine, yet what he did was with a view to expose its fallacy, and establish the data of his own system."

BOTANICAL THEORIES.

"THE vicinity of the Glyder, between Llyn y Cwn and Llyn Idwal, abounds with a variety of rare and curious plants; and is styled the Botanical Garden of Snowdon. Amidst a numerous assemblage are the following, growing upon Hyfva Bengam and Trygyvylchi rocks:—*Geum rivale*, *Juniperus communis* (var. β .) *Solidago cambrica*, *Thalictrum minus*, *Th. alpinum*, *Arenaria juniperino*, *Rhodiola rosea*, in great plenty. *Asplenium scolopendrium*, *Statice armeria*, *Sedum rupestre*, *Sphagnum alpinum*, *Lichen crassus*, *Swertiana perennis*, *Thlaspi birtum*, *Myrica gale*, *Anthericum serotinum*, *Cerastium alpinum*, *Draba incana* †, and *Veronica hybrida*.

"The immortal Linnæus laid it down as one of his essential data, that a certain number of species of plants were created at first, capable of producing the like; and that these will remain to the end of time. Numbers of his scholars have tried to sap this important doctrine, by discovering a variety of *mules* in the vegetable kingdom; (*i. e.*) plants produced by the farina of one species fecundating the pistilla of others, and producing hybrid plants. Thus the *Urtica alienata* is supposed to be between the *Urtica* and *Parietaria*; and the *Veronica hybrida* is said to be a mule from the *Veronica officinalis* & *V. Spicata*.

"Much has been said in the *Amœn. Acad.* ‡ and other works, and the parallel has been so far run with the animal kingdom by some, as to assert, that the *fructification* in mules resembles the female, and the *external habit* the male plant. Others, taking advantage of this concession of the Linnæan school, have asserted, that vegetable mules are *capable of increase*; and hence new species and endless varieties adorn,

and

and will continue to adorn, the theatre of vegetation. Thus are we hurried, without knowing it, to continual generation and reproduction: the flood-gates of doubtful definition are let open; and confusion again spreads darkness over the regions of botany. It is laughable to see to what lengths a spirit of conjecture, when trammelled by no restraints of truth, will carry the bold fabricators of theory.

"M. Bonnet observes, that the antheræ of aquatic plants do not emit farina like other plants; but a *fecundating liquor*, which, at the time, may be seen like a little cloud in the water: and then asks, 'Who knows but the powder of the stamina of certain plants may not make some impression on certain germs of the animal kingdom?' *Lett. à Spallanz. 43.*

"*Risum teneatis, amici?* The ingenious Frenchman did not recollect the *vegeto-animal, Polypodium barometz*, vulgarly called the Tartarian Lamb, from its supposed resemblance to it; or his triumph would have been complete.

"It should be remembered that Bonnet tried to do in the vegetable kingdom what his master, Buffon, tried long in vain to accomplish in the animal: after a whole life spent in torturing the Royal Ménagerie at Paris, he was not able to produce a single new species!

"I would ask, has any person witnessed the increase of these mules? No, it is *conjectured* so! Have they been known to produce a similar offspring? It is *probable* they have.

"Why," says Ray, "if plants may thus combine and interchange their properties, and form a *tertium quid*, &c. may they not, *ad libitum*, or by accident, change their *magnitude*? Why do not trees grow up to the skies, or extend their branches horizontally miles over the earth? Because there is a *maximum quod sit*," says this learned botanist, "appointed by Him, who at the creation issued the fiat: 'Let there be every herb and tree yielding seed after its kind'."

"Every part of nature, if we reason from fact or analogy, has its respective bounds, which mark the hand of order; but, in many instances, the transitions are so minute, as to demonstrate *that hand to be divine*. The advocates for the doctrine, perhaps, are not

aware they are inadvertently strengthening the hands of infidelity.

"From the most minute investigation of the *Veronica* in question, it appears to be the *V. spicata*, with no greater alteration than what commonly occurs in plants growing in a rocky and exposed situation: however, if botanists will have mules, let them rank in their proper places as *varieties*, not as *species*." P. 193.

PENHRYN DRINKING HORN.

"AN old drinking horn is preserved as a relic of the former hospitality of Penhryn; it is considered as very ancient, but the initials P. G. &c. tend to a conjecture, that it is not older than the time of Elizabeth. It is a large ox's horn, enriched with silver, and suspended by a chain of the same metal. Among the ancient Welch, according to the *Leges Wallie*, the following distinctions prevailed: 1st, *Y Corn ydd y fo y Brenin*, or the prince's horn;—2d, *Corn y Cywelidas*, or that by which the domestics of the palace were assembled;—and 3d, the *Corn y pencynydd*, the chief huntsman's (*vid. 311*). On festive days, it was a favour granted to the chief officers to drink out of the prince's horn, and to the inferior domestics out of those belonging to the superiors. The etiquette of the ceremony was, that its contents (strong metheglin) must be quaffed *at one tip*; and the horn blown by the person who drank last, to show there was no flinching. Such horns were in use among the Saxons, Danes, and Scotch, and most northern nations. Johnson mentions one preserved at Dunvegan, the seat of Macleod; 'An ox's horn hollow, so as to hold two quarts, which the heir of Macleod was expected to swallow at one draught, as a test of his manhood, before he was permitted to bear arms, or could claim a seat among the men.' *Vide Journ. to the Heb.*" P. 235.

DANGEROUS EMPLOY OF EGG-TAKING.

"FROM Llandudno to the Ormeshead is an elevated down, covered with sheep, extending for four miles, but not more than one in breadth; the promontory consists of high cliffs of various heights, abounding with large caverns,

caverns, which afford shelter for innumerable birds, such as pigeons, gulls, razor-bills, ravens, guillemots, corvorants, and herons. On the loftiest crags lurks the peregrine falcon, the bird so high in repute while falconry continued a fashionable amusement. The eggs of many of these birds are sought after as delicious food, and considered as a great treat to the epicurean; the price procured for them is a sufficient inducement for the poor to follow the adventurous trade of egg-taking: but, in this as in the pearl-fishery on the coasts of Persia, the gains bear no tolerable proportion to the danger incurred. The adventurers having furnished themselves with every necessary implement for the business, while the sun affords assistance by his beams, enter on the terrific undertaking: two, for this is a trade in which copartnership is absolutely necessary, take a station; he, whose turn it happens to be, or whose superior agility renders it eligible, prepares for the rupestrian expedition: a strong stake is driven into the ground at some distance from the edge of the cliff, to which a rope of sufficient length to reach the lowest haunts of these birds is affixed: fastening the other end round his middle, and taking the coil on his arm, and laying hold with both his hands, he throws himself over the brow of the cliff; placing his feet against its sides, and carefully shifting his hands, he gradually descends till he comes to the abode of the birds; then, putting his left hand into the hole while he suspends himself with the other, he takes possession of its contents, carefully placing the eggs in a basket slung at his back for the purpose; having despoiled all the nests within his extent of rope, he ascends by the same means to the edge of the cliff, where his partner, whose duty hitherto was to guard the stake, crawling on hands and knees, affords him assistance in doubling the cliff, which otherwise he would be unable to do. Dangerous employ! a slip of the foot or the hand would in an instant be fatal to both: instances have occurred, where the weight of the one overcoming the strength of the other, both have been precipitated down the craggy steep, and their mangled carcases been buried in the ocean: but these are rare. To a stranger and by-

stander this occupation appears more dangerous than it really is: in persons habituated to bodily difficulty the nervous system becomes gradually braced, and the solids attain that state of rigidity which banishes irritability; while the mind, accustomed to scenes of danger, loses that timidity which frequently leads to the dreaded disaster. To the person whose heart palpitates in the near approach to such heights, it must appear a presumptuous employ, and daily instances of its fatality might be expected: but fact demonstrates the contrary, and serves to prove how much we are the creatures of habit, and to what an extent difficulty and danger may be made subordinate to art and perseverance." P. 265.

STATE OF HUSBANDRY.

"IN consequence of the poverty of the soil and state of husbandry, the harvest is very late; and frequently, from the uncertain state of the weather, a difficulty occurs of procuring the scanty crops upon which their existence depends. It often happens, that the strength of hands is not adequate to the labour, and a poor farmer is in danger of being ruined. But there is a natural sympathy amongst the Welch that provides for this adverse circumstance. Sensible of the evil arising from a scanty crop badly housed, they form societies of assistance, called *cymmortheau cynbauaf*. As soon as one or two farmers have finished their own, or what portion is ready, they immediately repair, with their servants and horses, to assist their backward neighbour. This they do without any other fee or reward than their maintenance, and the consciousness that arises from the performance of an act of brotherly kindness. We have seen numbers engaged in this amiable occupation, and the pleasure they felt might be deduced from their clamorous exultation. If the sky lowers, and gathering clouds forebode a storm likely to mar their friendly intentions, the noise increases, exertion is redoubled, and they seem more anxious to secure their neighbour's produce than their own. The desirable end accomplished, they return with shouting to the house, where, congratulating the farmer's good fortune, they express their mutual happiness in acts of cheering festivity." P. 350.

PRIDE

PRIDE OR ANCESTRY.

"NATIONAL importance and family distinction too frequently descend into a petty pride, that induces the Cambrian to think more highly of himself than he ought to think. Pride of ancestry was a principal point amongst the ancient Britons; of course they were more desirous of noble, than of rich marriages. So deeply rooted was that principle, that even the very lowest of the people carefully preserved the genealogy of their families; and were able, from memory, not only to recite their immediate ancestors, but to trace them back through numerous generations.

"An instance is quoted by Mr. Penant of the pedigree of the clergyman, Mr. Evan Lloyd, who accompanied him; and as it is a genuine copy of the form of a British pedigree, I shall give it you. 'Evan ap Edward, ap Richard, ap Edward, ap Humphrey, ap Edward, ap Dafydd, ap Robert, ap Howel, ap Dafydd, ap Meirig, ap Llwyd o Nannan, ap Meirig Vychan, ap Ynyr Vychan, ap Ynyr, ap Meuric, ap Madog, ap Cadwgan, ap Bleddyn, ap Cynvyn Prince of North Wales.'

"This, which arises from their mountainous situation, and living long in the same district, may be placed amongst their hereditary prejudices; and might be considered as a venial defect in the national character, as only the excess of laudable affection: since it may be observed, that he who is attached to high rank must feel some respect for the virtues of him who procured it; were it not for the spirit of contention which it inspires, and the condescension to useful imitation which it prevents.

"A too quick sensibility renders the Welch highly tenacious, and their spirit is prompt to rise on the appearance, or even on the slightest apprehension of insult. This frequently proceeds from intemperate animation to the most violent paroxysms of passion, productive of hasty expressions and undue acts of violence. This spirit, when unrestrained by wholesome laws, was a constant source of massacre and slaughter, as it is now become of assaults and litigations. I wish I could thoroughly refute the appellation of quarrelsome, that has been frequently given to the temper of the Welch."

P. 353.

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AGRICULTURE.

"THE state of agriculture is at a very low ebb; it appears to have experienced little improvement for centuries; and the Welch farmer has the very first principles of good husbandry to learn. Attached to old customs, and deprived, by his isolated situation, of the stimulus arising from better examples, and still more so by the shackles of penury, cultivation makes no progression, and vegetation dwindles under the hand of industry. The distinction of three, four, and five-field husbandry, does not obtain. The farmer possesses no systematic knowledge; he follows no determinate plan, considering only the circumstances of the day; he ploughs his land as it appears convenient, and throws in his seed as the weather furnishes opportunity; the quantity of acres for wheat and barley is more determined by the preceding circumstances than by any other cause. So that from the observations of Gyraldus, it appears that agriculture, if it has not for centuries made a retrograde motion, has observed a stationary point.

"Their usual custom was, for oats, to plough the land once in March or April; for wheat and rye, they turned it up twice in the summer, and a third time in winter, about the season of threshing. From which it appears, that they fallowed for wheat and rye, and found that fresh turned land, and a stiffer soil, suited better the mountain oats.

"This ignorance in the most important concern to the welfare of a country, may be referred to the following causes:—Want of fallowing—paring and burning—neglect of sheep-folding—want of enclosures—scarcity of manures, and improper application of those they possess—and want of water-meadows.

"Fallowing may be justly considered, though part of the modern system, as a proof that husbandry is not far advanced towards perfection; and the time will come when this will be as much despised and rejected as it has been extolled and practised. The eastern farmer would smile at the idea of land standing in need of rest; and ask if it was considered as endued with animation? Through the populous and extensive empire of China no such thing is heard of.

"It certainly is a serious drawback upon

upon the profits of a farm, that one year's rent should be sunk every three or four; and may justly be viewed as a standing proof, that a knowledge of vegetation and the pabula of plants has not yet exceeded a state of mediocrity. Still *necessitas non habet leges*: we must apply to practice what knowledge we have; and none will be disposed to deny, that three good crops are preferable to four bad ones: but few of the Welch farmers have any idea of fallowing. After breaking up a portion of grafs land, they follow up the first by succeeding crops, till the land, deprived of heart (as they term it), refuses to give her wonted assistance, being drained of every principle favourable to a profitable crop.

"In many places this ruinous scheme is pursued till the weeds become predominant, and the land naturally lays itself down to grafs; and a crop of couch and other unfriendly weeds turns the arable into miserable pasture. When they have thus tired out all their land, recourse is then had to the injurious custom of burn-breaking, or paring the sward off the land, with a broad iron instrument, in thin turves or clods, which they burn in piles, and scatter the ashes upon the lands.

"This is no modern invention of agriculture, it was the practice of the Romans; and if antiquity would sanction a practice, this would have a fair claim to excellence. See it accurately described by Virg. Georg. l. i.

"But it is the opinion of practical men (vid. Bath Papers, vol. i.), that this custom is more detrimental than advantageous. It may destroy noisome weeds, but it injures the under-surface, and leaves a portion of effete ashes, which, without some corrective, are but very ill calculated for the purposes of vegetation. That it may with skill and caution be used on deep clay soils, and on four moors, I do not deny; but the idea of obtaining saline substances of a highly fructifying nature is erroneous; little or any salts being discoverable in the ashes of peat and turf; for nineteen out of twenty parts of the vegetable matter, the only substance separable by fire, are dissipated in air. It is only from fresh vegetables that alkaline salts are to be obtained; and the quantity in the common mode of procuring them is so small, that it would be more econo-

mical to purchase them in the market. If making the ground less tenacious be the object, it would be better to burn a portion of it in a kiln, and carry it upon the land. But after all, this object is better obtained by lime, without any of the disagreeable consequences that often follow burn-breaking.

"This custom has received the decided disapprobation of the Irish legislature, which has prohibited its being practised under a penalty of ten pounds per acre." P. 367.

"A knowledge of a few common principles of chymistry, and the application of them to practice, would do wonders for Wales; but these are not known, and if they were, would probably be disregarded. Lime is the general substitute in the inland parts, and sea-wreck and sea-sand in the parts bordering on the coast. The great error of those who disclaim the use of lime, has been that of using it on all kinds of land, without distinction; vainly expecting equal advantages from the most opposite effects. While it has proved a useful dressing to some soils, it has rendered others less fertile. To clay lands and cold wet bogs, this substance may be useful in a mechanical and chymical view. It may break and divide the argillaceous particles, and render it less tenacious by absorbing the superfluous moisture, and thus be beneficial as an alternative. It may, by combining with the superabundant acids with which these soils abound, decompose the vegetable and animal matter; and, by assisting putrefaction, develop other principles favourable to the growth of vegetables. In silicious soils by increasing the density and tenacity, enabling it to hold water longer, the principal food of plants, lime also may be highly beneficial. But the Welch farmer, from having heard of the great crops obtained by liming, or rather from the strength of prevailing custom, and the facility with which he can obtain this substance, is fatally bountiful in its application; and from supersaturation it produces an action on the soil more violent than is compatible with a state of fertility. Sometimes it is put upon the ground in its full caustic state, and immediately ploughed in. This, from the quantity of vegetable matter lime will thus dissipate by its disengaged heat in a state of gas, that otherwise would have

have helped to fertilize the soil, must be highly injurious. In other cases, from the distance it is fetched, and the time it is suffered to lie upon the ground, it is flaked by the dews and rains; and being long subject to the action of the atmosphere, becomes in a great measure inert, returns to a state of carbonate of lime or chalk, and, without other assistance, only serves to increase the barrenness of the soil. Yet still, without reason, the Welch farmer goes on, subjecting himself to increasing loss by increasing experiments; and wondering and complaining at the sterility of the soil. He loads his grass lands with the same inattention to causes and consequences. A first or second dressing, by its meeting with other substances that enter into new combinations with it, will afford matters friendly to the growth of the several useful grasses; but when overfaturated, by its specific gravity it falls below the roots of the sward, and forms a new soil, consisting of calcareous matter, several inches thick; and those who have witnessed the state of herbage upon unfassisted chalk lands, need not be told how he is soon disappointed of his usual crops of grass and hay.

"Sea-weed, wreck, or ware, is by some successfully applied; and when taken fresh from the sea, and immediately ploughed in, the effects are distinctly marked by early and luxuriant crops. In barley grounds the produce has been beyond all reasonable expectation; and there have been instances where the value of the land has increased in a sixfold proportion in consequence of the judicious application of this manure. But the generality of occupiers of land on the coast take a convenient opportunity for collecting it; lay it up in heaps to ferment; whereby they lose the great advantages that might be derived from it. In this respect sea-ware and most other marine plants differ from other vegetable and animal manures.

"To render the latter completely useful, fermentation is indispensably necessary; the former, on the contrary, exhibiting the most beneficial effects in a recent state. It may be urged in defence of this conduct, that

the greatest quantity is thrown up from November to February. But every month produces some; and reservoirs might easily be constructed on the sea-shore, or it might be mixed in the season of plenty with a proportion of earth and lime into a compost; by which means its valuable properties might be preserved—a point of the highest importance to the maritime farmer.

"Sea-sand and sea-sludge I shall class together, though essentially different; because they are both used in an improper manner in North Wales. These should be used as top dressings, and in a fresh state: but the reverse is the case. Immense quantities are thrown up daily by the tide; the unskilful husbandmen of these parts collect it at their leisure, and, drawing it out of the tide's way, lay it in heaps for months together, till successive rains have deprived it of the whole of the salts, the very principle for which it must be considered valuable as a manure.

"All the reasoning in the world will not induce these obstinate farmers to change their course. Indeed it would be absurd to reason with people unaccustomed to reason. In this case, and on such subjects, example is the only powerful and proper stimulus. An introduction of rational English farmers, possessed of capital, would be the best and most obvious mode for the landed gentlemen to adopt, for the improvement of their estate and the melioration of the country.

"I have witnessed two or three instances in the course of my peregrinations, where sensible men, perceiving the errors of their brother farmers, wait till their land is ready for the marine manure. At ebb tide they engage all the hands and strength they can, and draw the mud or sand immediately upon their arable land, plough it in, and throw in the seed. By this simple and judicious plan, the rest have the mortification of seeing these men procure decent crops from land they have given up in despair; without ever inquiring into the cause, or adverting to the method which produced it." P. 372.

LXXXII. *Dr. Currie's Edition of Burns's Works.* (Continued from p. 388.)

EXTRACTS FROM THE LIFE OF
BURNS.
(Concluded.)

"**THOUGH** by nature of an athletic form, Burns had in his constitution the peculiarities and the delicacies that belong to the temperament of genius. He was liable, from a very early period of life, to that interruption in the process of digestion, which arises from deep and anxious thought, and which is sometimes the effect, and sometimes the cause of depression of spirits. Connected with this disorder of the stomach, there was a disposition to headach, affecting more especially the temples and eyeballs, and frequently accompanied by violent and irregular movements of the heart. Endowed by nature with great sensibility of nerves, Burns was, in his corporeal, as well as in his mental system, liable to inordinate impressions; to fever of body, as well as of mind. This predisposition to disease, which strict temperance in diet, regular exercise, and sound sleep, might have subdued, habits of a very different nature strengthened and inflamed. Perpetually stimulated by alcohol in one or other of its various forms, the inordinate actions of the circulating system became at length habitual; the process of nutrition was unable to supply the waste, and the powers of life began to fail. Upwards of a year before his death, there was an evident decline in our poet's personal appearance; and though his appetite continued unimpaired, he was himself sensible that his constitution was sinking. In his moments of thought he reflected with the deepest regret on his fatal progress, clearly foreseeing the goal towards which he was hastening, without the strength of mind necessary to stop, or even to slacken his course. His temper now became more irritable and gloomy; he fled from himself into society, often of the lowest kind. And in such company that part of the convivial scene, in which wine increases sensibility and excites benevolence, was hurried over, to reach the succeeding part, over which uncontrolled passion generally presided. He who suffers the pollution of inebriation,

how shall he escape other pollution? But let us refrain from the mention of errors over which delicacy and humanity draw the veil.

"In the midst of all his wanderings, Burns met nothing in his domestic circle but gentleness and forgiveness, except in the gnawings of his own remorse. He acknowledged his transgressions to the wife of his bosom, promised amendment, and again and again received pardon for his offences. But as the strength of his body decayed, his resolution became feeble, and habit acquired predominating strength.

"From October 1795, to the January following, an accidental complaint confined him to the house. A few days after he began to go abroad, he dined at a tavern, and returned home about three o'clock in a very cold morning, benumbed and intoxicated. This was followed by an attack of rheumatism, which confined him about a week. His appetite now began to fail; his hand shook, and his voice faltered on any exertion or emotion. His pulse became weaker and more rapid, and pain in the larger joints, and in the hands and feet, deprived him of the enjoyment of refreshing sleep. Too much dejected in his spirits, and too well aware of his real situation to entertain hopes of recovery, he was ever musing on the approaching desolation of his family, and his spirits sunk into an uniform gloom.

"It was hoped by some of his friends, that if he could live through the months of spring, the succeeding season might restore him: but they were disappointed. The genial beams of the sun infused no vigour into his languid frame; the summer wind blew upon him, but produced no refreshment. About the latter end of June he was advised to go into the country; and impatient of medical advice, as well as of every species of control, he determined for himself to try the effects of bathing in the sea. For this purpose he took up his residence at Brow, in Annandale, about ten miles east of Dumfries, on the shore of the Solway Firth.

"It happened that at that time a lady with whom he had been connected in friendship by the sympathies of kindred genius, was residing in the immediate neighbourhood. Being informed of his arrival, she invited him to

dinner, and sent her carriage for him to the cottage where he lodged, as he was unable to walk. 'I was struck,' says this lady (in a confidential letter to a friend written soon after), 'with his appearance on entering the room. The stamp of death was impressed on his features. He seemed already touching the brink of eternity. His first salutation was, "Well, Madam, have you any commands for the other world?" I replied that it seemed a doubtful case which of us should be there soonest, and that I hoped he would yet live to write my epitaph. (I was then in a poor state of health.) He looked in my face with an air of great kindness, and expressed his concern at seeing me look so ill, with his accustomed sensibility. At table he ate little or nothing, and he complained of having entirely lost the tone of his stomach. We had a long and serious conversation about his present situation, and the approaching termination of all his earthly prospects. He spoke of his death without any of the ostentation of philosophy, but with firmness as well as feeling, as an event likely to happen very soon, and which gave him concern chiefly from leaving his four children so young and unprotected, and his wife in so interesting a situation, in hourly expectation of lying in of a fifth. He mentioned, with seeming pride and satisfaction, the promising genius of his eldest son, and the flattering marks of approbation he had received from his teachers, and dwelt particularly on his hopes of that boy's future conduct and merit. His anxiety for his family seemed to hang heavy upon him, and the more perhaps from the reflection that he had not done them all the justice he was so well qualified to do. Passing from this subject, he showed great concern about the care of his literary fame, and particularly the publication of his posthumous works. He said he was well aware that his death would occasion some noise, and that every scrap of his writing would be revived against him to the injury of his future reputation: that letters and verses written with unguarded and improper freedom, and which he earnestly wished to have buried in oblivion, would be handed about by idle vanity or malevolence, when no dread of his resentment would restrain them, or prevent the

‘censures of shrill-tongued malice, or the insidious sarcasms of envy, from pouring forth all their venom to blast his fame.’

“ ‘He lamented that he had written many epigrams on persons against whom he entertained no enmity, and whose characters he should be sorry to wound; and many indifferent poetical pieces, which he feared would now, with all their imperfections on their head, be thrust upon the world. On this account he deeply regretted having deferred to put his papers into a state of arrangement, as he was now quite incapable of the exertion.’ The lady goes on to mention many other topics of a private nature on which he spoke. ‘The conversation,’ she adds, ‘was kept up with great evenness and animation on his side. I had seldom seen his mind greater or more collected. There was frequently a considerable degree of vivacity in his sallies, and they would probably have had a greater share, had not the concern and dejection I could not disguise, damped the spirit of pleasantry he seemed not unwilling to indulge.’

“ ‘We parted about sunset on the evening of that day (the 5th of July 1796); the next day I saw him again, and we parted to meet no more!’

“ ‘At first Burns imagined bathing in the sea had been of benefit to him: the pains in his limbs were relieved; but this was immediately followed by a new attack of fever. When brought back to his own house in Dumfries, on the 18th of July, he was no longer able to stand upright. At this time a tremor pervaded his frame; his tongue was parched, and his mind sunk into delirium, when not roused by conversation. On the second and third day the fever increased, and his strength diminished. On the fourth, the sufferings of this great but ill-fared genius were terminated, and a life was closed in which virtue and passion had been at perpetual variance.” *Vol. i. p. 219.*

“ ‘The force of Burns lay in the powers of his understanding and in the sensibility of his heart; and these will be found to infuse the living principle into all the works of genius which seem destined to immortality. His sensibility had an uncommon range: he was alive to every species of emotion. He is one of the few poets that can be mentioned, who have at once excelled

excelled in humour, in tenderness, and in sublimity; a praise unknown to the ancients, and which in modern times is only due to Aristotle, to Shakespeare, and perhaps to Voltaire. To compare the writings of this Scottish peasant with the works of these giants in literature, might appear presumptuous; yet it may be asserted, that he has displayed *the foot of Hercules*. How near he might have approached them by proper culture, with lengthened years, and under happier auspices, it is not for us to calculate. But while we run over the melancholy story of his life, it is impossible not to heave a sigh at the asperity of his fortune; and as we survey the records of his mind, it is easy to see, that out of such materials have been reared the fairest and the most durable of the monuments of genius." *Vol. i. p. 335.*

CORRESPONDENCE.

To Mr. P. Hill,

"My dear Hill,

"I SHALL say nothing at all to your mad present; you have so long and often been of important service to me, and I suppose you mean to go on conferring obligations until I shall not be able to lift up my face before you. In the mean time, as Sir Roger de Coverly, because it happened to be a cold day in which he made his will, ordered his servants great coats for mourning, so, because I have been this week plagued with an indigestion, I have sent you by the carrier a fine old ewe-milk cheese.

"Indigestion is the devil: nay 'tis the devil and all. It befits a man in every one of his senses. I lose my appetite at the sight of successful knavery; and sicken to loathing at the noise and nonsense of self-important folly. When the hollow-hearted wretch takes me by the hand, the feeling spoils my dinner; the proud man's wine so offends my palate, that it chokes me in the gullet; and the *pulvis'd*, feathered, pert coxcomb, is so disgusting in my nostril, that my stomach turns.

"If ever you have any of these disagreeable sensations, let me prescribe for you patience and a bit of my cheese. I know that you are no niggard of your good things among your friends,

and some of them are in much need of a slice. There in my eye is our friend, Smellie; a man positively of the first abilities and greatest strength of mind, as well as one of the best hearts and keenest wits that I have ever met with; when you see him, as, alas! he too is smarting at the pinch of distressful circumstances, aggravated by the sneer of contumelious greatness, a bit of my cheese alone will not cure him, but if you add a tankard of brown stout, and superadd a magnum of right Oporto, you will see his sorrows vanish like the morning mist before the summer sun.

"C—h, the earliest friend, except my only brother, that I have on earth, and one of the worthiest fellows that ever any man called by the name of friend, if a luncheon of my cheese would help to rid him of some of his superabundant modesty, you would do well to give it him.

"David* with his *Courant* comes, too, across my recollection, and I beg you will help him largely from the said ewe-milk cheese, to enable him to digest those—bedaubing paragraphs with which he is eternally larding the lean characters of certain great men in a certain great town. I grant you the periods are very well turned; so, a fresh egg is a very good thing, but when thrown at a man in a pillory it does not at all improve his figure, not to mention the irreparable loss of the egg.

"My facetious friend, D—r, I would wish also to be a partaker; not to digest his spleen, for that he laughs off, but to digest his last night's wine at the last field-day of the Crochallan corps*.

"Among our common friends I must not forget one of the dearest of them, Cunningham. The brutality, insolence, and selfishness of a world unworthy of having such a fellow as he is in it, I know sticks in his stomach, and if you can help him to any thing that will make him a little easier on that score, it will be very obliging.

"As to honest J—S—e, he is such a contented happy man, that I know not what can annoy him, except perhaps he may not have got the better of a parcel of modest anecdotes which a certain poet gave him one

* "Printer of the Edinburgh Evening Courant."

† "A club of choice spirits."

night at supper, the last time the said poet was in town.

"Though I have mentioned so many men of the law, I shall have nothing to do with them professedly: the faculty are beyond my prescription. As to their *clients*, that is another thing; God knows they have much to digest!

"The clergy I pass by: their profundity of erudition, and their liberality of sentiment; their total want of pride, and their detestation of hypocrisy, are so proverbially notorious as to place them far, far above either my praise or censure.

"I was going to mention a man of worth, whom I have the honour to call friend, the Laird of Craigdarroch; but I have spoken to the landlord of the King's-arms Inn here, to have at the next county meeting a large ewe-milk cheese on the table, for the benefit of the Dumfriesshire whigs, to enable them to digest the Duke of Queensberry's late political conduct.

"I have just this moment an opportunity of a private hand to Edinburgh, as perhaps you would not digest double postage." Vol. ii. p. 165.

To a young Lady who had heard he had been making a Ballad on her, enclosing that Ballad.

"Madam, December 1788.

"I UNDERSTAND my very worthy neighbour, Mr. Riddel, has informed you that I have made you the subject of some verses. There is something so provoking in the idea of being the burden of a ballad, that I do not think Job or Moses, though such patterns of patience and meekness, could have resisted the curiosity to know what that ballad was: so my worthy friend has done me a mischief, which I dare say he never intended; and reduced me to the unfortunate alternative of leaving your curiosity ungratified, or else disgusting you with foolish verses, the unfinished production of a random moment, and never meant to have met your ear. I have heard or read somewhere of a gentleman who had some genius, much eccentricity, and very considerable dexterity with his pencil. In the accidental group of life into which one is thrown, wherever this gentleman met with a character in a more than ordinary degree congenial to his heart, he

used to steal a sketch of the face, merely, he said, as a *nota bene* to point out the agreeable recollection to his memory. What this gentleman's pencil was to him, is my muse to me; and the verses I do myself the honour to send you are a *memento* exactly of the same kind that he indulged in.

"It may be more owing to the fastidiousness of my caprice, than the delicacy of my taste, but I am so often tired, disgusted, and hurt with the insipidity, affectation, and pride of mankind, that when I meet with a person 'after my own heart,' I positively feel what an orthodox Protestant would call a species of idolatry, which acts on my fancy like inspiration; and I can no more desist rhyming on the impulse, than an Eolian harp can refuse its tones to the streaming air. A dithir or two would be the consequence, though the object which hit my fancy were gray-bearded age; but where my theme is youth and beauty, a young lady whose personal charms, wit, and sentiment, are equally striking and unaffected, by heavens! though I had lived three-score years a married man, and three-score years before I was a married man, my imagination would hallow the very idea; and I am truly sorry that the enclosed stanzas have done such poor justice to such a subject." Vol. ii. p. 201.

(To be continued.)

LXXXIII. Colquhoun's Treatise on the Commerce, &c. of the River Thames.
(Concluded from p. 384.)

RECEIVERS OF PLUNDERED PROPERTY.

"THE discoveries which have been made, not only of the systematic trade of receiving and purchasing, at very reduced prices, commercial articles of great value, but also of planning and assisting in the execution of designs, which have robbery and plunder for their object, convey to the mind a very melancholy picture of human nature. But when to this are added deliberate attempts to seduce men, having the trust of a valuable property, from the paths of honesty, by persuading them to commit felonies, and by holding out, not only those facilities which may assist them in

eluding

cluding detection, but also the wages of iniquity in a large, though an inadequate pecuniary reward, when opposed to the booty which is obtained, it is impossible to contemplate a species of turpitude thus aggravated and increased, without feeling a strong anxiety to see remedies applied to an evil of the greatest magnitude.

"This mischievous horde of delinquents, who thus propagate and nourish criminal offences, may be divided into twelve different classes.

"1. *Receivers of the more opulent class*; to whom the foregoing observations particularly apply. These availing themselves of the pecuniary resources they possess, give existence and vigour to depredation, upon a large scale, by solicitations and facilities, without which they could not have been committed; and when under the embarrassment of detection, avail themselves of their pecuniary resources, in calling forth the talents of counsel and the whole chicane of the law, to enable them to elude the punishment due to their crimes; in which the friends of morality and justice have to lament that they are too often successful, producing thereby incalculable injuries to the community at large.

"Of all others, the individuals of this class are the most noxious and destructive to commercial property. Some of them have carried on sugar refineries chiefly by the spoliation which they fostered and encouraged. They have accumulated wealth by purchasing tea, coffee, hemp, ashes, deals, timber, and many great articles of commerce, at very reduced prices, which their credit in the commercial world has enabled them to dispose of, without suspicion, at the full value.

"2. *Receivers of an inferior class*, who are in connexion with small grocers, and venders of smuggled goods, through whose medium the lumpers have been accustomed to dispose of the plunder they obtained, and which was afterwards conveyed by false bills of parcels to the houses and shops of the purchasers, whose dealings amounted to a large sum in the course of a year.

"3. *Receivers in connexion with revenue officers*, who are denominated *copemen*, and who contribute, in no inconsiderable degree, to the pillage which has taken place in outward and homeward-bound ships, by the assistance they afford in finding means to

convey the articles on shore, and afterwards in disposing of them.

"4. *Receivers who keep shops* for the purchase and sale of old iron and old stores, hand stuff, junk, and rags, who deal with the stealers of cordage, metals, and other articles, which they are ever ready to purchase, at an under price, without asking questions, and not seldom to cover the unlawful possession of King's cordage, by certificates of similar stores purchased at the sale of unserviceable articles at the dock-yards.

"5. *Receivers who keep small grocers' shops, and chandlers' shops* for corn, and other articles.—These encourage labourers and others, who work on ship-board and in warehouses, to purloin sugar, rum, coffee, pimento, ginger, Dutch cheeses, corn, and various other articles, which are instantly purchased, under circumstances which denote a perfect knowledge of the articles being stolen.

"6. *Publicans who are in the habit of giving credit to lumpers*, and other aquatic labourers, receiving in payment whatever they can steal and purloin from ships and vessels in the river Thames, and from the wharfs and warehouses adjacent thereto; or permitting their houses to be a general rendezvous for journeymen coopers, who commit acts of pillage in the warehouses, under the pretence of removing samples.

"7. *Small manufacturers of twine and ropes*, who are in connexion with the labourers on board of ships from Russia, and with night plunderers who pillage hemp lighters: supplying themselves in this manner with the chief part of the raw materials, which they work up at a very under price, and encouraging this species of depredation (which has gone to a great extent annually), by applications to those whose situation at the time affords them opportunities of obtaining, by unlawful means, this particular article.

"8. *Female receivers who keep houses of ill-fame, or are otherwise in connexion with the seamen on board the ships and vessels in the river Thames.*—These, after plundering the thoughtless men of their wages, by the most infamous means, encourage them to pilfer and steal whatever can be obtained; in the sale of which they are generally cheated of three fourths of the value. This ill-got wealth is speedily

disipated in riot and debauchery, and the depredations renewed, subject to a repetition of the same frauds and impositions.

"9. *Covetous receivers*, whose attention is directed to good bargains, and who are in the habit of purchasing smuggled goods and cheap articles without asking questions.

"10. *Careless receivers*, who, without meditating any evil design, purchase indiscriminately whatever they can obtain cheap, under the idea that it is the private adventure of seafaring men, or their connexions. For this species of traffic, there are multitudes of open doors in every street in the vicinity of the river, on both sides, from London bridge to Blackwall and Greenwich.

"11. *Receivers of his Majesty's naval and victualling stores*, residing at the towns and villages from Deptford to Leigh and Sheerness, on both sides of the river Thames, and on the river Medway, and from thence to Chatham. These afford infinite facilities to persons who navigate boats, and other vessels in the service of government, in the purchase of whatever can be abstracted from their cargoes, stores, or materials; and who are also in the habit of purchasing from the mates and crews of trading vessels whatever they bring for sale, without asking questions. They are discovered to be a very mischievous class of men, and require to be narrowly watched.

"12. *Jew receivers*, and others who keep single-horse carts, and collect old iron, copper bolts, nails, and different metals; also junk, cordage, and ships' stores, &c. at the dock-yards at Deptford, Woolwich, Sheerness, and Chatham, by holding out encouragement to those who have opportunities to pilfer and steal, by the purchase of such articles at an under price. These single-horse carts have greatly increased of late years, and the facilities they afford in the immediate conveyance of King's stores to places of concealment, together with the lures they hold out to labourers and others to pilfer and steal, have long rendered them objects of attention on the part of the police. Their rapid increase too affords strong grounds of suspicion, that the evils they generate are multiplying every year.

"In estimating the number of these respective classes of receivers, it must

be evident that the mind cannot be assisted by any accurate data.—Resort must, therefore, be had to those lights which experience, in executing the duties of a magistrate, upon a very extensive scale, has suggested; aided by minute inquiries, and by an attentive view of the different ramifications of these various nurseries of criminality.

"With the assistance, therefore, of such information, as experience and investigation have furnished, the following general view of the probable numbers of those noxious members of society, in their different classes, is offered to the consideration of the reader:—

1st. Opulent receivers who trade on a large scale	20
2d. Inferior receivers who deal with lumps, &c.	25
3d. Copemen in connexion with revenue officers	20
4th. Dealers in old iron, and old ships' stores, &c.	55
5th. Small grocers and chandlers	55
6th. Publicans	35
7th. Twine and rope spinners	20
8th. Female receivers	50
9th. Covetous receivers	60
10th. Careless receivers	150
11th. Receivers on the banks of the Thames, and Medway, below Deptford	40
12th. Jew receivers, and others who travel with carts	20
Total	550

"It now becomes necessary, after the foregoing delineation of a very melancholy picture of the component parts of this great machine of turpitude, which has so long been moved with impunity, and which has proved so hostile to the rights of innocence, and to the best interests of commerce and navigation, to exhibit the whole in a collected point of view by the following

RECAPITULATION.

	Total Number.	Delineations.
1st. Mates of ships and vessels	3,444	500
2d. Inferior officers and crews	24,000	4,000
3d. Revenue officers, &c.	1,500	700
4th. Lumpers	1,400	1,200
5th. Coal-heavers	800	600
6th.	3	11

6th. Coopers	-	400	300
7th. Watermen	-	900	500
8th. Lightermen	-	1,500	500
9th. Night watchmen	-	1,000	300
10th. Scuffle-hunters	-	500	500
11th. Labourers in ware-houses	-	1,000	500
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		36,344	9,600
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12th. River pirates	-	-	100
13th. Night plunderers	-	-	200
14th. Light-horsemen	-	-	200
15th. Receivers, including 12 classes	-	-	550
16th. Mudlarks and rat-catchers	-	-	200
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		Total	10,850

P. 191.

ABRIDGED DIGEST OF THE LAWS RESPECTING THE SALE OF FISH.

"IT has been repeatedly remarked by successive writers, that there is not perhaps a country in the world better situated to be plentifully and constantly supplied with fish than Britain; yet it is well known, that in London fish is seldom seen but at the tables of the rich; and, excepting sprats and herrings, which are caught only during a short season, none are tasted by the poor, though fresh fish of some kind or other, might be sold all the year, much cheaper than butcher's meat, if no sinister arts were used to prevent it. These arts, however, have been known chiefly in their effects; and it has, therefore, been always difficult to frame laws, by which the practice of them would be prevented. By the detection of various artifices from time to time, it was found that it had been usual for the fishmongers to contract with the fishermen for their whole cargoes, and oblige them to stop at Gravesend, instead of coming up to Billingsgate; then they caused the fish to be brought up to market only by boat-loads at a time, the remainder of the cargo being shifted into a well-boat, under the care of some servant, who sent it up by degrees, as the fishmonger directed. Thus the best fish was dealt out in small quantities, and great part remained behind a month, and sometimes six weeks, before it was ordered up; and having then been so wasted as to be unwholesome, it was destroyed to make way for fresh: so that perhaps

not a twentieth part of the fish that had been caught was sold, while the poor were distressed for food. To secure a continuance of this fraud, they became owners of fishing-vessels themselves, hired fishermen to go masters, and obliged the fishermen's apprentices to be bound not to the fishermen, but to them, as fishmongers, though the fishermen are a distinct company.

"As to the fish brought to market by the fishermen, the fishmongers in conjunction employed persons as their buyers at the market, to take up all the best fish, and then divided it among themselves by such lots or parcels as they thought proper; so that when it came into their shops, they enhanced the price at pleasure, and were sure not to be underfold.

"When a new fish market was, in the year 1749, attempted to be established at Westminster (by statute 22 Geo. II. cap. 49.), the trustees and the inhabitants raised a large sum of money by subscription, and purchased fishing-vessels, to be employed solely in supplying this new market. Yet such was the influence of the fishmongers, and the fishermen in their interest, over those employed in these fishing-vessels, that though they were bound under covenants, with large penalties, they broke through them all, so that the market was deserted for want of a supply, and the subscribers ultimately lost their money.

"Manifold have been the attempts to put a stop to these frauds and monopolies: the statutes 29 Geo. II. cap. 39. and 30 Geo. II. cap. 21. were passed, containing such regulations, as it was hoped would prove effectual. And jurisdiction was given to the justices in Kent and Essex, as well as to the mayor, recorder, and aldermen (being justices) of the corporation of Queenborough and Gravesend, to enforce the penalties.

"The fishmongers, however, still continued to keep the fish wasting in their well-boats at Gravesend, beyond the time limited by law, by causing the holds of these well-boats to be divided into several cells, with partitions between them: When a fishing-vessel came in, as part of the fish only was forwarded to the market directly, the remainder was put into one of these cells or receivers: another vessel, two or three days after, left part of her cargo

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cargo in another receiver of the same boat, and so on till all the receivers were full; where it was kept as long as the fisherman pleaded. When the inspector (appointed by virtue of the acts last mentioned) came to see whether the fish had been forwarded to market as it ought, and found it remained beyond the time, he was told, that what he saw came by after-vessels, and that the time for sending it forward was not expired; which he not being able to disprove, the fraud passed unpunished. It had been provided by these acts, that an entry should be made of the fishing-vessels, as they came in, under a very considerable penalty; but this was frequently eluded by prevailing upon those who had the charge of making the entry, to leave the entry to be made by some waterman, who took the entering-money, and made the entry upon pieces of paper, which remained with him, before they were posted in the entering-book, perhaps twenty days. If the inspector, upon finding no entry made, gave himself no trouble, the end was answered; if he did and prosecuted, the defendant produced the waterman's paper, which brought the entry within time; and though this paper might be forged, as the proof of the forgery was scarcely possible; the end of the fisherman was still answered, and he cheated the public with impunity.

"To remedy these evils and some others, the last act of parliament passed, and now in force, material to be considered, as respects the port of London, is the statute 33 Geo. II. cap. 27. of which the following is the substance.

"The master of every fishing-vessel, within three days after his arrival at the Nore with fish, shall report the time of his arrival to the deputed clerk, in the coast-office, at the custom-house in London, under 50*l.* penalty, and the clerk is to enter the report in a book kept for that purpose. The master is also to leave a true account of all fresh fish which have been brought alive to the Nore in his vessel, upon pain that the owners of such vessel shall forfeit 20*l.* If any person on board such vessel after her arrival, shall destroy, or cause to be destroyed, any fish which shall have been brought from sea, that is not unmarketable, such offender shall be committed to hard labour for any time not exceeding two

months, nor less than one month. The clerk at the coast-office is on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, in every week, to return to the mayor of London, and to such persons as the trustees of the fish-market at Westminster shall appoint, in the city of Westminster, and to the inspector of the fishing-vessels, at such place as the said trustees shall appoint, a true account of the time when every such vessel shall have been entered as arrived at the Nore, and also of the fish, &c. which shall have been entered; under the penalty of 5*l.*

"None of the fish mentioned in the act (*viz.* salmon, salmon trouts, turbot, and ling, fresh cod, and half-fresh cod, haddock, skate, fresh ling, lobsters, soles, and whittings) shall, at any time after their arrival at the Nore, be put into a well-boat, or store-boat, under the penalty of 20*l.* nor be delivered out of any fishing-vessel (unless when sold by retail) but into the vessel employed to carry it directly to Billingsgate or Westminster; and no vessel is to remain above one tide with the fish, accidents of wind and weather excepted. If any one offends in the premises, he is to be committed to the house of correction, for any time not exceeding two months, nor less than one month: and the inspector of the fishing-vessels is duly to execute his office under the penalty of 20*l.*

"By the statute 2 Geo. III. cap. 15. made to encourage the supply of the metropolis with fish, by land-carriage, but which did not succeed to any beneficial extent; no person who shall sell or be concerned in the sale of any fresh fish by commission, is to buy or be concerned in the buying of any fresh fish to sell again, on his own account, or for the joint account of him and any other person, under the forfeiture of 50*l.* No person is to sell at any fish-market within the bills of mortality, or within one hundred and fifty yards of such fish-market, and during the market-hours, any of the fish specified in the act, before he shall have first placed up a true account of all the fish which he shall then have to sell, distinguishing the several sorts of such fish, and the quantity of every sort respectively, under 10*l.* penalty; and no person is to have in his possession, or expose to sale, any spawn of fish, or any fish unfizeable or out of season, or

any smelt, which shall not be five inches from the nose to the utmost extent of the tail.

"By the two last stated acts, a general jurisdiction over offences created by them, is given to all justices of the peace, within their respective jurisdictions." P. 436.

LXXXIV. *Secret Memoirs of the Court of Petersburg*: particularly towards the End of the Reign of Catharine II. and the Commencement of that of Paul I. Forming a Description of the Manners of Petersburg at the Close of the eighteenth Century, and containing various Anecdotes, collected during a Residence of ten Years in that Capital. Together with Remarks on the Education of the Grand Dukes, the Manners of the Ladies, and the Religion of the People. Translated from the French. 2 vols. 8vo. pp. 576. 10s. Longman and Rees.

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EXTRACTS.

JOURNEY OF THE KING OF SWEDEN TO PETERSBURG — PROPOSED MATCH BETWEEN HIM AND THE GRAND DUTCHESS ALEXANDRA.

“IT was difficult to find, I will not say a king, but a young man, more interesting, better educated, and of so great promise as the King of Sweden. He was seventeen years of age, tall and finely shaped, with an air of nobleness, intelligence, and mildness: yet there was something of grandeur and stateliness about him, notwithstanding his age; and he had all the graces of youth, without the awkwardness that usually attends it. His manners were simple, though courteous and polite. Whatever he said was spoken with reflection. To serious things he paid an attention not expected from youth: he displayed knowledge, that announced a very careful education; and a certain gravity, that bespoke his rank, never forsook him. All the pomp of the Russian empire, which was sedulously exhibited to his view, seemed in nowise to dazzle him. In that brilliant and numerous court, he soon appeared more at ease than the grand dukes themselves, who knew not how to

converse with any person; so that both court and city soon drew comparisons between them very flattering to the young stranger. The empress herself could not conceal the pain she felt at the disparity between him and the second of her grandchildren, whose brutal and rude boyish tricks offended her to such a degree, that she put him under arrest once or twice during the stay of the King of Sweden*.

“All the great men of the empire were eager to participate in the joy of Catharine, who selected such as should give entertainments to her young guest, and fixed the days. Counts Stroganof, Ostermann, Belborodko, and Samoilof, distinguished themselves by the sums they expended, and the magnificence they displayed. The courtiers sought to surpass each other in the richness of their dress, and the generals in the military spectacles which they exerted themselves in exhibiting to the king. The old General Melisso particularly distinguished himself by the manoeuvres and artificial fireworks executed and played off under his direction. Gustavus was in a state of continual enchantment; yet he wisely employed his mornings in traversing the city on foot with the regent, and seeing every thing that could be interesting or instructive. Every where he put such questions, or gave such answers, as showed the understanding he possessed, and the education he had received.

“The regent, who appeared to enjoy the honour of his labour in the approbation bestowed on his pupil, is a very little man. His manners are easy and polished; he has an air of acuteness and observation; his eyes are sparkling and full of fire; every thing he says displays the man of understanding, and excites reflection in those who hear him.

“It may readily be supposed, that during this succession of entertain-

* “On several occasions, when the king appeared in public with the grand dukes, foreigners were shocked, and the honest Russians humbled, at the courtly demeanour of the former, contrasted with the rustic behaviour of the latter. At a review of the corps of cadets of the artillery, where the young Gustavus appeared attentive to every thing most worthy of notice, conversing with the generals around him, and with the Grand Duke Alexander, who was appointed to do the honours of the empire, the Grand Duke Constantine was running and bawling behind the soldiers, imitating them in a burlesque manner, threatening them, and even beating them. It is certain, that the King of Sweden left Petersburg as well acquainted with the city, as those who were one day to reign there.”

ments, the two lovers had frequent opportunities of seeing each other, conversing and dancing together: they became familiar, and appeared mutually enchanted. The aged Catharine assumed an appearance of youth, and again indulged in those scenes of joy and pleasure which she had long since renounced. The approaching marriage was no longer a secret; it was the common topic of conversation. The empress already spoke to the young king and her grand-daughter as betrothed lovers, and encouraged them to mutual affection. One day she made them give the *first kiss of love* in her presence: the first, no doubt, that the virgin lips of the young princess ever received; and which may have left a pleasing and cherished impression, that will long render her unhappy.

"In the mean time steps were taking to bring this desired match to a conclusion. The only difficulty which presented itself, was that of religion. Catharine had felt the pulse of her court on the subject; and even consulted the archbishop, to know whether her grand-daughter might abjure the orthodox faith. Instead of answering in the way in which she flattered herself he would have done, he merely replied: 'Your majesty is all-powerful.' The chief patriarch of Russia, not finding himself supported by the opinions of his clergy, whom he expected would have been more tractable, was then desirous of appearing more Russian than the Russians themselves; and, to flatter the national pride, rather than from respect to the Greek church, resolved to make a queen of Sweden of the Greek religion. In proportion as this appeared new and humiliating to the Swedish nation in the eyes of the patriarch, the more flattering was it to his vanity, and that of his ministers: besides, the popes, chaplains, and others, whom it would place about the young queen, would be trusty persons, and well calculated to keep the princess in the interests of Russia. The king was enamoured, dazzled: the regent appeared to be completely gained: could it then be supposed that they would reject this arrangement, after such decisive steps had been taken? In the private conversations that had passed, this delicate subject had been but slightly touched upon: it was scarcely expected that Catharine would have any

scruples; and the king had hinted, that, from respect to the Russian nation and the prejudices of the people, the princess should not be obliged to abjure the Greek religion in form. The empress, persuaded that there was no room for retreat, left to her favourite ministers Zubof and Markof the care of drawing up the contract conformably to her views. On the other hand, the Swedish ambassador demanded the princess in marriage, at an audience which was given him for the purpose of making the demand in form; and the day and hour on which the parties were to be publicly betrothed, were fixed.

"This day, which was the 21st of September, exposed the happy and imperious Catharine to the greatest chagrin and humiliation she had ever experienced. The whole court received orders to assemble in full dress in the apartment of the throne. The young princess, habited as a bride, and attended by her sisters, the grand dukes and their wives, and all the ladies and gentlemen, with the grand duke, father to the princess, and the grand dutches, who came from Gatchina to be present at the ceremony of betrothing their daughter, were assembled by seven o'clock in the evening. The empress herself arrived in all imaginable pomp. No one was wanting but the young bridegroom, whose tardiness at first excited astonishment. The repeated going out and coming in of Prince Zubof, and the impatience which the empress exhibited, soon excited the curiosity and whisperings of the ladies. 'What is the matter? Is the king taken ill?' 'He is not very gallant, however.' 'How could he dare thus to make the sovereign wait, in the apartment of her very throne, and with all her court assembled?' The king, however, expected like the spouse of the eleven thousand virgins, did not appear.

"The following was the occasion of this strange delay: The king was to have been at court at seven in the evening. At six, the minister Markof brought him the contract and the articles of alliance, which he had just drawn up with Zubof. Gustavus having read them over, appeared greatly astonished on finding they contained articles on which he had not agreed with the empress; and asked whether

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it were from her that they were brought to him to sign?

"Markof answering in the affirmative, the king replied, that he could not possibly comply. He observed, that he would lay no restraint on the conscience of the princess; that she might profess her own religion in private, but he could not allow her either a chapel or priests in the palace: on the contrary, in public, and in all outward ceremonies, she must profess the religion of the country. The reader may conceive the surprise and embarrassment of Markof: he was obliged to take up his papers, and return to Zubof, to inform him that the king refused his signature. He soon after returned in the greatest agitation, to say, that the empress was already in the apartment of the throne, surrounded by all her court; that it was no longer possible to speak to her; that she waited for the king; and that he flattered himself he would not bring the affair to an open rupture, which would be an unheard-of insult to his sovereign, and to the whole empire. Beshorodko, and several others, arrived in succession, exhorting, urging, praying the king to yield. All the Swedes who were called in inclined the same way. The regent contented himself with saying, that it depended on the king; drew him aside, and took a turn round the room with him, appearing himself to press him, while speaking to him in a low voice. The king answered aloud, 'No, no; I will not; I cannot; I will never sign them!' He withstood all the remonstrances, all the importunities of the Russian ministers; and at length, vexed at the pertinacity with which they beset him, he retired to his chamber, and fastened the door, after giving a clear and peremptory refusal to sign any thing inconsistent with the laws of his country. The Russian ministers remained stupified at the audacity of a boy, who dared thus resist their sovereign, and concerted how to break the catastrophe to her.

"If the firmness which the young Gustavus displayed on this occasion were his own; if the sollicitations which his counsellors appeared to make, were not feigned, he has given

his nation a proof of the greatest character, which cannot be too highly admired in a young prince of seventeen, whom, it might be expected, love alone would have been sufficient to subdue. It is to be presumed, however, for the honour of the regent, that the entreaties which he appeared to use with his nephew were insincere; and that he wished only to charge the obstinacy of the king with a resistance which would probably have drawn upon himself the immediate vengeance of Catharine. Most of the Swedes who attended Gustavus were actually bribed or seduced: being young courtiers, their expectations were highly raised on the wedding gifts, and they were much mortified at the disappointment. Steding, the ambassador, had a difficult part to act: but M. Flemming publicly declared his sentiments, by saying, that he would never advise the king to act contrary to the laws of his realm.

"These debates between the ministers of the empress and the king continued till near ten o'clock. Catharine and her court were still waiting: but at last it was necessary to inform her, that the affair was broken off. She rose, attempted to speak, but her tongue faltered; was like to faint; and even had a slight fit, the precursor of that which carried her off a few weeks after. The empress withdrew, and the court was dismissed, under pretence of a sudden indisposition of the king. Some were offended at the audacity of a petty King of Sweden; others blamed the imprudence of the wife Catharine, who had so lightly exposed herself to such a scene: but the presumption of Zubof and Markof, who had pretended to impose on the Swedes by their cunning, and who had thought of procuring a matrimonial contract to be signed without being read, was particularly censured.

"The most interesting victim was the amiable Alexandra. She had scarcely strength to enter her apartment; and there, no longer able to restrain her tears, she gave herself up, before her governesses and maids of honour, to a grief that affected all about her, and rendered her truly ill. The next day but one after this unexpected affair, was the birth-day of

* "These articles were, that the princess should have her private chapel and clergy in the royal palace, besides certain engagements into which the Swedes were to enter against France, which have been kept very secret."

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the Grand Dutchess Anne Feodorovna*: the etiquette of the court prescribed a ball, but no person would dance. The king went to it however, and the empress also made her appearance for a moment, but did not speak to him. Zubof did not even conceal his anger against the young monarch. Embarrassment was visible on every countenance. Alexandra, being ill, was not present. The king danced with the other princesses, conversed a moment with the Grand Duke Alexander, and retired early, saluting every person with still more politeness than usual. This was the last time of his appearance at court.

"These public days of pomp and festivity were suddenly changed into those of retirement and irksomeness. Never were any so melancholy and unpleasant spent by a king at a foreign court. Every person was ill, or pretended to be so. The interest that Alexandra had inspired, and Gustavus merited, softened every heart in their favour. She was pitied, as the victim of vanity and folly; he, for being obliged to make a sacrifice that must have cost him so dear †. Execrations were openly bestowed on Zubof and Markof. The conduct of the empress, who gave herself up to the most dreadful chagrin, appeared inexplicable. It is said, that her humbled favourites took the liberty of hinting to her to use force with the young prince, who was in her power. She went and shut herself up a whole day, almost alone, in her palace of Tauris, under pretence of celebrating the foundation of her chapel, but in fact to conceal from the eyes of her court the trouble that afflicted her, and to consult with her clergy and favourites on the embarrassing situation in which she fancied herself placed." *Vid. i. p. 20.*

* "The wife of the Grand Duke Constantine, daughter of the Prince of Saxe Cobourg."

† "He has since married the young princess Frederica of Baden, sister of the Grand Dutchess Elizabeth. Notwithstanding the charms of his young bride, it is supposed that he is not happy with her; and it is to be feared that Alexandra, who, it is said, is to be married to an arch-duke of Austria, will not be more so."

‡ "One hospital, however, founded by Catharine, deserves to be mentioned as a characteristic establishment. It is destined for the reception of fifty ladies infected with a certain disease. No question is asked, either as to the name or quality of those who present themselves, and they are treated with equal care, respect, and discretion. This last word is even marked on the linen appointed for their use."

MONUMENTS OF THE REIGN OF CATHARINE.

"PREVIOUS to the death of Catharine, the monuments of her reign resembled already so many wrecks and dilapidations: codes, colonies, education, establishments, manufactories, edifices, hospitals, canals, towns, fortresses, every thing had been begun; and every thing given up before it was finished. As soon as a project entered her head, all preceding ones gave place, and her thoughts were fixed on that alone, till a new idea arose to draw off her attention. She abandoned her code, to drive the Turks out of Europe. After the glorious peace of Kainardgi, she appeared for a while to attend to the interior administration of her affairs, but all was presently forgotten, that she might be Queen of Tauris. Her next project was the re-establishment of the throne of Constantine; to which succeeded that of humbling and punishing the King of Sweden. Afterwards the invasion of Poland became her ruling passion; and so imperiously did it fascinate her, that a second Pugathes might have arrived at the gates of Petersburg without inducing her to relinquish her hold. She died, again meditating the destruction of Sweden, the ruin of Prussia, and mortified at the success of French republicanism. Thus was she incessantly led away by some new passion still stronger in its influence than the preceding one, and thus neglected her government both in its whole and its parts.

"Medals have been struck in honour of numerous buildings which have never yet been constructed; and, among others, the marble church, which, undertaken some twenty years ago, is still on the stocks. The shells of other edifices, which have never

been

been finished, appear like so many ruins; and Peterburg is encumbered with the rubbish of a variety of large mansions fallen to decay before they have been inhabited. The projectors and architects have pocketed the money; and Catharine, having the plan or medal in her cabinet, concluded the undertaking to be finished, and thought of it no more.

"The Petersburg almanac gives a list of upwards of two hundred and forty towns founded by Catharine, a number inferior, perhaps, to what have been destroyed by her armies; but these towns are merely so many paltry hamlets, that have changed their name and quality by an *immiennoi ukase* or supreme order of her imperial majesty; some of them even are nothing more than posts driven into the ground, containing their name, and delineating their site: yet, without waiting till they shall be finished, and particularly till they shall be peopled, they figure in the map as if they were the capitals of so many provinces*.

"Prince Potemkin has actually built some towns, and constructed some

ports in the Crimea. They are fine cages, but they have no birds; and such as might be allured thither would shortly die of chagrin, if they had not the power of flying away. The Russian government is subjugating and oppressive; the Russian character warlike and desolating. Tauris, since it was conquered, has become a desert†.

"This mania of Catharine, to sketch every thing and complete nothing, drew from Joseph II. a very shrewd and satirical remark. During his travels in Tauris, he was invited by her to place the second stone of a town of which she had herself, with great parade, laid the first. On his return, he said, 'I have finished in a single day a very important business with the Empress of Russia: she has laid the first stone of a city, and I have laid the last.'

"Of all the monuments erected by her at Peterburg that will remain as long as they shall not be swallowed up by the swamps, are the superb quay of the Neva, and the equestrian statue of Peter I.‡. The last, however beautiful, is greatly inferior to the accounts

* "Catharine built, at an enormous expense, near Tzariko-felo, the town of Sophaisa, the boundaries of which are immense; but the houses are already tumbling down, and have never been inhabited. If such be the lot of a town placed immediately before her eyes, what must be the fate of those cities founded by her in the remote deserts? But the most absurd town that exists is unquestionably that of Gatshina, of which Paul has the honour to be founder. These personages look upon men as storks, who are caught by placing a wheel on the top of a house, or on a belfrey. But all these forced erections, from the superb Potsdam to the contemptible Gatshina, tend to prove that the real founders of cities are cultivation, commerce, and freedom."

† "A friend of mine, a man of learning, was travelling in Tauris under the protection of government, for the purpose of investigating the country. One day he arrived at the habitation of a Tartar, who led a patriarchal life, and treated him with becoming hospitality. My friend, perceiving that his host was dejected, asked him the cause of his sadness: 'Alas! I have great reason,' said he. 'May I not be permitted to know it?'—'The Russian soldiers who are in the neighbourhood, come every day and cut down my fruit-trees, that I serve me both for shade and nourishment, to burn them; and shortly my bald head will be exposed to the burning heat of the sun.'—'Why do you not complain of this treatment to their chief?'—'I have done so.'—'Well!'—'He told me that I should be paid two rubles a foot for such as they had already cut down, and the same for as many as they may cut down hereafter. But I do not want their money. Ah! let me at least die in peace under the shadow of the trees which my fathers have planted! or if this will not be, then must I follow my unhappy brethren, and flee my country, as they have been compelled to do before me:' and the tears trickled down the beard of this venerable patriarch."

‡ "D'Ossail addressed some verses to Catharine, in which was the following handsome quatrain:

"C'est par tes soins que le bronze respire
Sur ce rocher de Thémis aperçu,
Et que le czar découvre son empire
Plus vaste encore qu'il ne l'avait conçu.

which hyperbolical travellers have given of it. The following verses from Delille may be applied to it:

"Du haut d'un vrai rocher, fa demeure sauvage,
La nature se rit de ces rocs contre-faits."

"On a wild rock nature contemptuous sits,
'And laughs to scorn these idle counterfeits'."

"The idea of placing the great tzar upon a stupendous and rugged rock, over which he had climbed, was certainly new and sublime; but it has been badly executed. The rock was brought from Finland to the bank of the Neva with infinite labour; was twenty-one feet in height, forty in length, and covered with moss several inches thick, which must have long been accumulating. It was deprived of its wild and primitive form to give it a more regular appearance; and, what with hewing and polishing, was at last reduced in size nearly one half; so that it is now a little rock under a great horse; and the tzar, who ought to be surveying from it his empire, more vast even than he had conceived, is hardly able to look into the first floor of the neighbouring houses. By another absurdity, Peter appears in the long Russian coat, which he particularly disliked, and obliged his subjects to quit and to shorten. If this statue had a pedestal proportionate to its size, it would be an admirable performance." Vol. i. p. 118.

(To be concluded in our next.)

LXXXV. *Mercier's New Picture of Paris.* (Concluded from p. 378.)

ADULTERATED WINES.

"PARIS, whose superficies contains within its ramparts only three millions seventy-three thousand and ninety square fathoms, and whose population is at least seven hundred thousand souls, consumes annually four hundred fifty thousand muids."

"'T was thou that bid yon rock-built statue's pride

In breathing bronze o'erlook the distant main;

'Surveying hence his realms extended wide,

'The tzar still wonders at his vast domain'."

"A muid contains 300 quarts."

of wine, not comprehending brandy, beer, and cider.

"Whether, therefore, the vines of Burgundy, of Champagne, of Languedoc, and Roussillon, be beaten or not by the hail, it matters little; the quantity must be the same: and, according to the principle of the wine-dealers, the secret is known how to make enough for every one.

"The most villainous of all apprenticeships is that which is made at the manufacturer of wines; his cellar is a practical school of knavery and cunning of every kind; it is a laboratory at least as formidable as that of a quack.

"It is there that a libertine apprentice forms himself in the art of preparing and distilling poisons; of compounding with the woods and dye-stuffs of the Indies, with beet-root, carrots, turnips, and litharge, a mixture, which his master makes him put into sealed bottles, under the pompous names of *Tonerre, Bourgogne, Champagne, d'Alicant, Madeira, and Cyprus*.

"The list of those fine and foreign wines, true master-piece of his composition, figures in capital golden letters among the black bunches of the iron vine, which bends in clusters at the door of his tavern: it is the only vocabulary of the noted fops of the neighbourhood.

"It has been said, with as much finess as good sense, that *truth lies at the bottom of the bottle*, which contains happily the true juice of the god of joy. There is also truth in the adulterated bottles; it is a terrible truth; there is *death in the pot* yes, death, which, like a gnawing worm, fastens on its prey, and slowly corrodes it.

"Mild and tranquil gaiety does not expand the brow of the laborious mechanic, condemned to the use of this traitorous liquor. A deep melancholy, on the contrary, darkens his visage, whilst he drinks it without misfruit. The poison soon penetrates into his veins like a fiery serpent, and puts him in a rage. The excesses which he commits in his delirium, are owing solely to the perfdy of the vintner.

"It

"It is not for his own wine that he thirsts, it is for your gold. He will not bate you a farthing, but holds your money, and passes and repasses it with his thumb; a cheat and a knave from principle, he takes only money of good alloy; and seldom sells you any thing but wines that are false or adulterated.

"Look at him; one hand on the key of the till of his counter, and the other on the inexhaustible can: his head is as full of motion as that of a fox on the watch. He welcomes, with a knavish smile, the crowd that enters. 'What price, gentlemen,' accosting them; 'twenty-five, or thirty 'sous?' His attentive eye examines and distinguishes each class of tipplers.

"He is more cunning than the pick-pocket, for he knows how to cheat even the thief, by scoring on his slate a greater number of bottles than he has emptied with his noisy companions.

"There are three kinds of wine for the three principal parts of the day. The wine of the morning is alterant; this is the dearest *.

"The adulterating vintner well knows that the morning is the hour of house-painters, carpenters, master-masons, and smiths. Their measure in their hand, they mount the tottering staircase of his drinking-room, where the only decoration which meets the eye, are the attributes of the god of Lampacus, portrayed with charcoal.

"The bottles are rapidly emptied, and the last which comes is always the smallest; for the quart is reduced to some lines more than a pint in those bottles, which seem all chosen to resolve the problem of the infinite divisibility of matter.

"The wine of noon is diluted with river water in sufficient quantity, because that of the morning has parched

the throat. That of the evening is spirituous, sharpened by brandy or spirits of wine, and sometimes impregnated with dead cat, to give it body. It is the middle class who drink this, to comfort themselves after the day's excessive labour; and as it burns rather than warms the stomach, it is every where vaunted; and it is on this error in taste that more than one vintner builds his reputation.

"How I pity the hard-working man, who, bending under his burden, and his limbs bathed in sweat, stops at the door of this sacrilegious profaner, to ask for a poor half-quarter pint! When he puts to his lips this terrible red mixture, I fancy I see a man about to swallow poison †.

"It is not enough to know the superficialities of this immense city. The cellars belonging to taverns occupy three fourths of its subterraneous topography. It is into those labyrinths you must penetrate, to surprise the fabricator in the midst of his ingredients.

"It is in vain to establish duties on the entries of wine; he will set at nought the most subtle scrutiny. His wine, like the water of Arcueil, will come into Paris through invisible channels.

"It is the avidity of gain, more than the insufficiency of the laws, which makes those of his profession so intrepid, and who, being in possession of the same secret, manufacture every where the same wine, brave the sentence of the liquor standard, and the experiment of the chymist ‡." *Vol. ii. p. 34.*

LOUIS D'OR.

"THE Louis d'or has been worth 18,000 livres in assignats. We came at length to talk only of millions and milliards. It is impossible to calcu-

* "The price of wine is scandalous. A workman pays his day's labour for a bottle; too happy, when he is not reduced to drink that which is sold to hackney-coachmen, to the inhabitants of the alleys, those of the Greve, or the vagabond beggars of the Fauxbourg St. Marceau."

† "The wine-merchants of new date do not yet mix their liquors, because they are not yet initiated in the secret of the old."

‡ "The wines also in the ports are adulterated. The wine which is of pure growth, is destined only for the rich. But let a tradesman of the lower order, a taylor for instance, cheapen a barrel; the wine-merchant, who discovers him by his gait, and crooked legs, will sell him wine of Surenne for wine of Mâcon. One might suppose that he regulates the pleasure of his mouth, according to the state or condition of the individual; he judges that it is not nectar, but verjuice, that suits the plebeian cockney, such as will sting his palate."

late what influence those fatal denominations had on the dearth of provisions, which augmented progressively with the increase of the assignat. It was the departments who first refused to accept this unfortunate paper as currency, admitting only coin in their commercial transactions.

"Every one recollects the deplorable effects which resulted from money-jobbing. The paper fell with the velocity of a burst balloon; and to do honour to its memory, an engraving was made, representing the various kinds of paper which had been made use of during the revolution. The one had no reproach to make to the other.

"This allegory on the paper-money reminded us of that made in 1720 by the celebrated Picard, on Lewis's bank.

"This engraver had represented Folly, in whalebone petticoats, driving a carriage loaded with shares to the hospitals of the madmen, the beggars, and the sick. A swollen-cheeked Fame, sounding a trumpet, flew before to announce its arrival. Fortune standing on the carriage, under the figure of a woman, was distributing by handfuls shares in the South Sea and the Mississippi. The Mississippi with a wooden leg, and the South Sea with a large plaster, drew the carriage; and the subscribers to this new system were pushing at the wheel, and driving it over the real merchants, known by their ledgers under their arms. A devil in a cloud was blowing soap-bubbles of various sizes, emblems of the bank bills, Serpents with foolscaps were flying about, amidst the figures of Despair, Care, and Remorse. A head with two faces, one laughing and the other crying, gave the key of this singular picture.

"We want a new Picard to immortalize the assignat. But there is nothing to laugh at, for every one lost. No one expected so sudden and total a fall.

"Since that epocha, how many obscure and unknown chambers have become pawnbrokers' shops, secret depots of every kind, which want, indigence, and narrow circumstances have heaped together! Hence it happens, that you find in almost every one's house such singular assortments of furniture; mahogany writing-desks, and velvet chairs, with hospital carpers;

a clumsy bread coffer by the side of an elegant harpsichord; and gilded fire-irons, in an old plaster chimney without a back.

"If a taylor or shoemaker invite you to take a glass, it is marasquin, or liqueur of the iles. One would imagine that some fantastic spirit had amused himself during the night in mingling the furniture of the rich and poor together; and had taken the best wines out of the cellars, and stowed them in the garret. The mixture for four years past has been so extraordinary, that it mocks the pencil; and the observations I now make are only to engage the attention of such as wish to examine it after me.

"An owner of a salad-stall at this moment lives in one of those English gardens, planted with weeping-willows; its ivy walks and melancholy yews seem to throw a mournful crape over the flowers, and place, as it were, nature under a funeral canopy. My salad-vender, however, has erected in the middle of the garden a great copper bust of Lewis the XIVth, which he bought by the pound, and is looking for its fellow.

"All the figures copied from the antique are to be found in the corners of houses; and a washer-woman came to offer me a Niobe and a Charlemagne, whose names were absolutely unknown to her.

"Such are the sports of fortune, varied and humorous, forming the after-piece; the farce after the dreadful tragedy, of which we have all been witnesses." *Vol. ii. p. 102.*

SMALL SHOPS, STALLS.

"WHAT is most in evidence in the city is to see the quays, the bridges, the cross-ways, the public places, the corners of the streets, and streets the whole of their length, obstructed by moveable stalls; barracks, even warehouses of grocery and cutlery, stretching out to the middle of the pavement. The parapets of the quays are covered with books; there are more booksellers than cake-sellers; there must be a prodigious number of readers, for you see stalls of books every where; there are booksellers' shops in hand-barrows, who make off when it rains, and return in fine weather. They have discovered the secret of putting the greatest number of shops in the smallest place possible. They have dug

dog under the walls, and some streets of Paris are like a beehive, in which that problem of geometry is resolved by a mercantile mechanism.

"On whatever side you turn your steps you see the permanent fair of France, where traders are niched in the smallest hole possible. You see lusty carpenters, who with brawny arm are busy in mounting scaffolding, placing props, and suspending whole houses on cross beams.

"Here you find workmen, who, climbing up on short ladders, demolish, cut, pierce through stone work of four feet thickness, to change stables into counting-houses. The masulipatan, the madras, the shawl, display their glowing colours at the place where the prancing nag champed his hay from beneath the rack slaves; and the shed of the groom is become the milliner's boudoir; the smell of the dung yet remains.

"I have taken a shop, and begun trade, is what all these sellers of every thing and doers of nothing tell you; this, however, finds work for the smith, who is every day inventing fire locks; the joiner, who makes window-frames in the modern Gothic, in order to throw the light more delicately on the stuffs; the painter, in short, who varies his arabesque according to the caprice of his employers. The shops are resplendent with light, and the smallest have their suns and their arands.

"The orthography of the modern signs no longer fears the censure of the purist, while the letters of the names present strokes, the elegance and boldness of which deserve the attention of sworn writers: this is a visible amelioration.

"But a great number of these shops, so brilliant on the outside, have nothing but factitious riches within. Those boxes, ranged with so much show in their cases, contain nothing pretty generally but hay; nevertheless, every one wishes to appear a considerable dealer, and the success of the sale depends more or less on the dexterity of the shopman who is the decorator. This is the mode. A handkerchief skilfully displayed makes a dozen in the glasses opposite; and, thanks to their magic, more than one shopkeeper possesses a double warehouse. Besides, it is a truth too well known, that of thirty shops of fresh date there are

scarcely ten which support themselves with any distinction.

"Failures follow quickly, and before the shop-tax is paid the shop is let to another tradesman, who boasts all-ready of this title, which he will not keep for a long time. Blunders, inconsistency, and false calculation, are the characteristics of a multitude of heads which are to be met with only at Paris.

"Yesterday four argand lamps illuminated with all their splendour the finest shop in the quarter; to-day a single candle with its timid light betrays the ruin of the master. Ah! if it were known by how many sacrifices such a woman purchases the glory of exhibiting herself in a wig behind the counter, above which her name shines in letters of gold, how many people would be cured of the fatal itch of making themselves tradesmen! for how many individuals imagine they can, without striking a stroke, transact the commerce of both the Indies, because they have seen the brilliant warehouses of the Palais Royal! Imitation exercises an incredible empire over a multitude of weak minds.

"What particularly strikes the sight are the goldsmiths, who, across their squares, display riches in which taste predominates over value. This frail rampart is constantly respected by the pickpocket and the thief: it has scarcely ever been known that a square has been broken.

"Such is the cupidity of the tradesman, that he sees nothing in Paris but his shop and his getting forward; it is the centre of commerce: he makes a ridiculous abuse of this word, which he has never comprehended.

"Bankruptcies must necessarily be very frequent in a city where the number of traders surpasses, if we may use the expression, the number of buyers, whom the extreme scarcity of money, and the taxes incurred by the enormous expenses of the war, forbid not only all superfluous expenses, but even those of the strictest necessity.

"Besides, the too great concurrence between the great and little tradesmen tends only to drive away industry, which cannot be a long time suspended without being lost and annihilated. The destruction of companies has engendered this numerous race of little tradesmen, who have neither probity, honour, nor conscience, and who, having

having paid the patent, imagine they have acquired a right to swindle. Sooner or later this legion of miserable retailers will repeat of having renounced their former calling; for is it in the order of things that a barber should become a wine-merchant, a coachman a coffee-house keeper, a lackey a goldsmith, a clerk a grocer, a kettle-mender a bookseller, and a porter an upholsterer? Vol. ii. p. 299.

CARDS OF RESTAURATEURS.

"YOU receive them as you enter, printed, a sheet in folio. One man, leaning with both elbows on the table, studies a long time before he decides; another feels his sob, to see if he has enough to pay for his dinner, for no one now dines cheap. Calculate well, if you do not wish to be taken unawares, and obliged to leave your watch or snuff-box at the bar, in mortgage for half a capon.

"You see the price plainly marked; but you do not see the dish: when it comes on the table, what it contains might be served up in a saucer. You behold in the firmament the increase of the moon; at the restaurateur's, you see nothing but the decrease of the dish; but the price is fixed and irrevocable as the polar star. The meat is cut in filigree, by and by it will be cut in laces. One would suppose that oxen were dwindled into the size of turkeys; half an ounce has taken place of half a pound; the apothecary does not weigh out his doses more scrupulously. When you ask for a cut of eel *à la tartare*, they bring it you; but this cut is not above an inch and a half in length: take care that the card expresses how many inches you should have, without which your cut will be only a little roll. It is the same with all other dishes; they are all of the most delicate smallness; you would imagine that they were only bringing you samples of some future repast. Alas, citizen cooks, I do not want to have a coat made; I want to dine. There would not be money enough in Paris to give a single dinner to every individual in Paris, at the price that costs a single repast, not far from the Peron.

"Let your purse, when you enter a restaurateur's, be better furnished than the card, and take care that you do not fast, though you pay a good deal. Nothing is more deceiving than the

view of the prices, because the restaurateur, though fat and thick, looks upon all those whom he entertains as real Lilliputians. A wag said, 'I will make my dinner in five acts, with change of scenery, but not in the same theatre!'

"There are some droll terms in these cards. We hear a waiter crying out to a kind of maitre d'hotel, Bring a potage *à la ci-devant reine*, with two kidneys *à la brochette*: bring a potage *à la ci-devant Condé*, with a ragout of hare. There you eat the potage of that Condé, who fled so quick, and so far, which sounds along the tables, and which signifies only a soup, which he will never taste again.

"A sole *au grain*,' squeaks a little shrill and feminine pipe; 'A quarter of a capon,' bawls a strong and masculine voice.

"Your potage, your petits pâtés, your cutlets, your fricandeau, your apple, your biscuit, all is enregistered the moment you swallow it; and if your stomach doubts what you have swallowed, a process-verbal places it before your eyes. For as to the account, it is made after the rules of Bareme; pay, and I advise you to go and dine elsewhere.

"They offer you at these tables the Letter of a cordelier turned player, addressed to a carmelite become a milliner. There is nothing but the title which is piquant. If you listen to what is passing around you, you find a droll mixture of folly and reason, sorrow and gaiety, silence and noise, wit and stupidity, of slavery and liberty; the conversation is a true salmagundi, like the dishes.

"At the Courtille, the petit Pologne, new France, the traiteurs are more loyal than those in the city; in these guinguettes, you see the dish together with the price; you may compare them, and take them away, dressed or undressed. The old clothes-men sell their merchandise in the shade, in order to conceal the spots; the restaurateurs sell dishes invisible, and which the scullions never display till you are engaged; the restaurateurs deserve therefore the title of Jews as much as the clothesmen.

"They get rich pretty fast; and what proves this is, that you see written up in great characters, Such a one, successor to such a one. Leda already rivals the celebrated Meot. Eating

is the fundamental basis of society at present; eating is the only serious occupation; to dine well is the *summum bonum*; and all those looking-glasses which decorate the rooms of these restaurateurs, reflect nought but egotism devouring every thing at its ease; and which, when it has dined, is affected with no one's misfortunes." Vol. ii. p. 355.

LXXXVI. *The Pleasures of Solitude*: a Poem. By P. COURTIER. 12mo. pp. 44. 2s. 6d. Carverhorn, Rivington.

EXTRACTS.

"COMPAR'D with concert, oratorio proud,
Aye all that banded chorus can perform,
Where—slowly critical, now piercing loud—
Alternate reign the sighing and the storm;
The breast with happiest energy to warm,
Let but the lute's wild melody awake
On summer's evening bank, as round me swarm
The elves that issue from each scented brake,
Each copse, and purpled grove, their revelries to take.
" * See through the mazes of the midnight ball
With rapid feet yon splendid triflers fly;
From every tongue what flattering periods fall
How smiles each face! how sparkles every eye!
So loud their mirth, thou deem'st no sorrow nigh.
But learn, thou erring judge, there envy lours,
There jealousy extorts the bitterest sigh,
There, all her poison'd chalice Scandal pours,
And lassitude soon clogs the bliss-devoted hours.
" But oh how sweet, how passing sweet, to rove
Where sits unseen the minstrel of the night,
And trills such music o'er the listening grove
As sure might harmonize the rudest sprite!

Then, while the moon from her meridian height,
And all the countless stars that round her burn,
Shed o'er the tranquil scene their tender light,
The soul sublim'd, each earthly care may spurn,
And toward its native heaven with holy longing turn!

" Then, nought of discord harsh thine ear shall wound,
Like theirs who tread the city's crowded ways!
The distant water's faintly murmuring found,
The whispering wind that through the foliage strays,
The tinkling bell of sleep that startled gaze,
The clock's deep chime from half-hid village spire,
The watchful dog at fancied thief who bays,
Though simple all their tones, such thoughts inspire,
That from thy bosom far shall passion's brood retire." P. 20.

" Who that has felt the pressure of the crowd,
Would wish, with tottering steps, in crowds to bide;
When most in peril, impotently proud;
And though on slippery ground, fear not to slide?
Note but his fate—thou wilt avoid his pride,
And wise thy way from moiling tumult force;
As gentle rivulet that breaks aside
From threatening deeps, where reign rude surges hoarse,
And winds through flowery meads its safe and noiseless course.

" Thrice happy he, who even in earliest youth,
Has sought the bower to meditation dear,
Who, long accusom'd to the voice of truth,
Can yield to truth an unreluctant ear!
To him, how welcome each declining year!
How fair the splendour of his setting skies!
No time, no circumstance to him is drear,
Within himself whose noblest transports rise,
Or nature's simplest scene a thousand sweets supplies " P. 20.

* For the three following stanzas the author is indebted to Mr. R. A. Davenport. LXXXVII.

LXXXVII. *A philosophical Treatise on the Passions.* By T. COGAN, M.D. 8vo. pp. 367. 8s. 6d. Hazard, Bath; Cadell and Davies, London.

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PART I. Chap. I. Specific Difference between Passions, Emotions, and Affections—Love and Hatred—Desire and Aversion.—II. Joy—Gladness—Contentment—Pride—Desire—Hope—Sorrow—Fear—Anger.—III. Social and sympathetic Affections—Gratitude—Admiration, &c.—Malevolent Desires and Dispositions.—**PART II.** Chap. I. Surprise the efficient Cause of Passion—Relation of Passions and Affections to each other.—II. Experience—Difference of Sex—Diversity of Temperament—Progress from Infancy to Age—National Customs—Force of Habit—Self-love—Education—Novelty—Fashion—Love of Singularity—Popular Prejudices—Associated Ideas—Manner in which Information is conveyed—Imitative Tones and Representations—Rhetoric, Oratory, Eloquence.—The Drama—Predisposing Causes.—III. Influence of the Passions—Thought and Language—Character—Happiness.

EXTRACTS.

NATIONAL CUSTOMS.

“**NATIONAL** customs, however widely they may differ from each other, have also a very powerful and permanent hold on the affections. For these the inhabitants of every country imbibe a prepossession from the earliest infancy. Early habits seem to be propagated with the species; so intimately are they formed and moulded into the growing frame! and these early propensities are every day strengthened and confirmed by universal example! Custom and habits reconcile whole nations to climates the most unfriendly, and to occupations the most arduous and servile.

What softer natures start at with affright,
The hard inhabitant contends is right.
The history of the manners and cus-

oms of different nations fully demonstrates that they are divided into large masses of predilections and prejudices, strong attachments and strong aversions! It evinces the feeble influence of the rational faculties either in forming or correcting customs, the most beneficial, or the most pernicious. Nay, should experience itself begin to suggest better principles to some superior and reflecting minds, ages may roll before any one will venture out of the common course, and attempt to reduce them to action; and his best endeavours will probably be rewarded with ridicule, contempt, and general detestation! Though causes merely incidental may have conspired to introduce a peculiarity of manners and to form national characters; yet, being once formed, they become the sovereign rule of thought and action: they are diffused over the most extensive communities; and unless freedom of intercourse be held with neighbouring nations, not an individual can escape the impression. Thus it is that the inhabitants of one district contemplate those things as essential to well-being, which others hold in abhorrence; that one class of people reveres as incumbent duties, observances which others contemplate as the greatest absurdities; that some are inspired with invincible attachments to rites, which those who are not under the influence of the same prepossessions, justly consider as a disgrace to humanity.

“Whether custom should influence opinion, or opinion introduce custom, they both operate upon the affections, and generally manifest the plenitude of their power by the number and magnitude of the absurdities they render familiar and acceptable to the mind. These have for successive generations established the empire of imaginary beings; and the affections of reverence, love, and gratitude have been thrown away upon ideal objects. These have functioned the most inveterate hatreds; have consecrated immoralities, and dignified theft, prostitution, and murder; have rendered the austerities of Brahmen and Monks venerable to the multitude; have loaded the Gentoo female with insufferable disgrace who refuses to expire in torments from affection to her deceased husband; and in the most enlightened countries they enjoin it upon the man of honour to murder his best friend for a hasty expression,

pression, or some other indiscretion of a momentary transport. Opinion has clothed a frail mortal with infallibility, or communicated that exclusive attribute of Deity to councils and synods, and bowed the necks of myriads to the empire of their decrees. It has elevated the worthless into the character of saints, and those who have most deserved the divine indignation have been invoked as the most prevalent intercessors. It has represented the Universal Parent as the tyrant, instead of the benevolent friend of mankind; conducted to torture those who presumed to think more worthily of him, and it now threatens a total abnegation of his existence.

"But the diversities of opinions and manners, with their correspondent predilections and aversions, exceed enumeration. It is these diversities which furnish the amusement derived from the perusal of travels; and as no two nations on the globe correspond in every instance, the peculiarities of each illustrate in a striking manner the truth of our observation. They indicate the inconceivable variety of sentiments and affections which incidentally take place among beings of the same species, inhabitants of the same sublunary system, conversant with similar objects, and possessing similar powers of mind." P. 232.

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stantaneously altering our opinion of the nature and qualities of things, without demanding any painful exertions of the understanding, or requiring the slow process of investigation. With the quickness of a magic wand, it in a moment subverts all those ideas of beauty, elegance, and propriety, we had before cherished. It makes us reject as odious what we lately contemplated as most desirable; and raptures are inspired by qualities we had just considered as pernicious and deformed. There are some instances, indeed, in which we endeavour to justify our novel affections. We are assiduous to find out some peculiar excellence or advantage, in whatever becomes the idol of the day; and to discover some insufferable defect in the divinity we have discarded. That which was once deemed grand and majestic in size or form, will now strike the eye as insupportably clumsy; and the regularity we once admired, now renders an object stiff, precise, and formal. Colours, which were yesterday so delicately elegant, will appear to-day faint, faded, and lifeless; and those which were lately much too strong and glaring for our weak optics, become in an instant bright, glowing, and majestic. Fashion will render that particular garb which we lately thought so warm and comfortable, intolerably sultry; and it makes the slightest covering, contrary to its pristine nature, remarkably pleasant in the depth of winter. The flowing hair, or adjusted ringlets, shall at one period be considered as becoming and elegant; at another, be rejected as an insufferable mark of effeminacy, and as demanding a culpable waste of our most precious time; while their close amputation is deemed both manly and commodious. Fashion has power to influence our ideas of graceful proportions; it elongates or contracts the form of the leg in one sex, or of the waist in the other. At one period it imperiously orders the tightest ligatures to encircle the neck, as if the separation of some excrescence were intended; at another it recommends the large and swollen cravat, as if it thought a poultice were necessary to alluage the irritation occasioned by the preceding mode; and it benevolently permits the chin to partake of the soothing warmth. It directs decency to excite a blush, at being detected without any other head-dress

than that ordained by nature; and it is able to suppress the blush of female delicacy at exposures, which scarcely

leave any room for the exercise of the most licentious imagination." P. 244.

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